CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? Part 11
"The Witness of Science"
(Job 38:4-7; Psalm 19)

INTRO: So many credible witnesses with believable testimony that ensure we can trust the Bible . . . TODAY, the witness of science. Scripture (faith) and science (observation and intellect) are usually viewed as contradictory (creation or evolution, age of earth, etc.). Actually, the two are more complimentary. The God of the Bible is also the God of science. Psa. 19 introduces us to two books: (vv. 1-4) Nature (Science) *and* Scripture (vv. 7-10). Two books with same Author: The Book of God's *World* and the Book of God's *Word*. They go hand-in-hand. The problem comes, "When science (Mac. P. 107) . . .

I. THE STORY OF SCIENCE

A. Origins – traced back to ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamia (3000 BC?). No instruments, only patterns from external observations of how the natural world (God created) works. "Folk wisdom" eventually came along as people observed patterns in their daily world. These became "rules of thumb". Examples . . . Next, "armchair philosophy", the opposite of folk wisdom, came into play. It looked inward, relying solely on intellect, reason, logic. Most of their notions were never tested until 1500-1600s. Galileo (1600s) and Newton (1700s) united these (observation & logic) and the "scientific method" was born . . . MG 57-58; CG 157, 59. This method has made it its impact on exploration, medicine, etc.

B. Famous Christian Scientists include . . . (my notes, M.G. 27-8). More recent in Dr. Francis Collins . . .

II. SCIENCE *IN* THE BIBLE

Bible doesn't pretend to be a book of science, but when it does speak of a principle or an area of science, it is accurate. Examples:

A. Matters - things, Energy (Force) - happenings, Space - Time – matrix in which those things happen (Gen. 1:1-2)

B. Hydrology – science of water (Eccl. 1:7; Isa. 55:10; Psa. 33:7; 135:7; Job 26:8; 28:10; 36:27-28; 38:22) – Water cycle . . . 17th century science discovered

C. Astronomy – science of the universe beyond earth (Isa. 55:9; Job 22:12; 25:5; Ps. 19:6; Jer. 31:37; 33:22; 1 Cor. 15:41) – discovered 17th century

D. Geology studies the earth, includes:

1. Isostasy – earth balance (Isa. 40:12; Ps. 104:5).
2. Geodesy – earth's shape and size (Ps. 103:12; Isa. 40:22).

PLUS, other scientific fields: meteorology, physiology, biology, etc. The Bible always speaks accurately in these areas. Later science catches up in its discoveries, always confirming what God had already stated.

E. What about dinosaurs?

III. SCIENCE *AND* THE BIBLE

A. Albert Einstein, "I think . . ." Science needs faith *and* faith needs science witness. It's not either/or but both/and. ILLUS: cake or ice cream? Peanut butter or jelly? . . .

B. Two Tools with Two Purposes (ILLUS: Toolbox is all tools and each has different purpose) The Bible and science are similar, as each presents truth. Sometimes the answers are different. Why? Not based on same kind of truth. *Science* is based on what we *can* observe – sight (scientific method: make an observation, …) - limited by what is observed. *Scripture or Faith* is based on what *cannot* be observed – faith (Heb. 11:1, 27; 2 Cor. 5:7). Faith is about believing in and living for something that is NOT observable, measurable, or repeatable. Scripture and science both offer truth, just different kinds. This can give the impression of conflict, but not so, only based on differing assumptions, so don't always reach the same conclusions. Science seeks truth in the natural world; Scripture as revealed in the supernatural world. They can and do work together. Why? Both point to the same God! Their goals are different.

C. Two Goals – The goal of *science* is to produce *clarity*. The goal of the *Bible* is to produce *faith*. Actually, these merge very well. Clearly seen in creation and the design of the universe (CG 61-62) . . . Rather than causing us to question our faith, science can actually increase our confidence in our faith (famous scientists concur).

ILLUS: Back to Francis Collins . . .

CONC: Science is good and not in conflict with faith and the Bible. It can give us some answers about the natural world God created, BUT more importantly we need a real encounter and forever relationship with the God of the Bible. Science can't give us that, but faith can! And the inspired, accurate, authoritative Word of God tells us how to enter and enjoy that relationship.