

Wednesday Word, February 18, 2015: A Few Reasons Why I Believe the Bible

The Bible is not the book of the year, it is the book of the ages. It has outsold, outlasted and surpassed in reach more than all other books put together. However, not so long ago, personal reading of the Bible was frowned upon in my native Ireland.

In fact, in many countries, the Bible has been burned and banned. Indeed, rather than accept that the Bible is God's word, many still deny, distort and disregard its gracious truths. "Oh, we can't believe the Bible," some sneeringly say, "Science disproves it." Well, I'll be the first to admit that the Bible is not a science textbook. It isn't meant to be. It's a book that teaches us about God, His character and His redemption through Jesus Christ. However, when someone says that science disproves the Bible, they are incorrect. They would be more accurate if they said that some science disagrees with certain parts of the Bible. Disagreement, however, neither proves nor disproves anything.

Given enough time, science will catch up with the truths of the Scriptures. Science, you see, is always changing and developing. For example, it is reported that in 1861, the French Academy of Science printed a brochure giving 51 incontrovertible scientific facts as to why the Bible was in error. Today, not one scientist believes in any of these so called proofs.

Again, for thousands of years, the science of the day maintained that the earth was flat. In 1492, as his ears rang loud with warnings that he would fall off the edge of the world, poor old Columbus set sail to discover new lands. But the earth wasn't flat. The Bible had said this all along. 2,700 years ago the Bible prophet Isaiah stated, "It is He that sits on the circle of the Earth" (Isaiah 40:22). The word "Circle" is literally the word for sphere or globe! So, how did Isaiah know that the earth was a sphere? That's simple. God told him (2 Peter 1:21)

God's word is never changing, but science is. For example, we take it for granted that the earth is suspended in space. But science didn't always believe that. In ancient Egypt, they believed that the earth rested on 5 pillars. The Greeks, in turn, believed that it was supported by a giant named Atlas. The ancient Hindus believed that the world rested on the backs of giant elephants who in turn rested on a giant turtle who rested on the back of a coiled serpent swimming in a cosmic sea. But we don't find anything like that in the Bible. What we do find, however, is Job 26:7 which informs us, "He hangs the earth upon nothing!" Wow! How did Job know that? That's simple. God told him.

Again, consider how in 150 BC, Hipparchus the astronomer charted the heavens and concluded there were 1,022 stars. A few hundred years later, Ptolemy, said that due to scientific advances he could now tell that Hipparchus was incorrect. There were not 1,022 stars, there were, in fact, 1,026. Then, 1300 years later, along came Galileo with his telescope and reckoned that the stars numbered in their 1000s. Was he correct? Far from it! Astronomers now estimate that there are at least 12 octillion stars in the known galaxies.

However, no one needed to calculate the number of the celestial luminaries. Jeremiah, the Bible prophet, had already let them know. He stated explicitly that the host of heaven (the stars) cannot be numbered (Jeremiah 33:22). How did he know that? It's simple. God told him.

If time and space were to allow, we could discuss another reason why I believe the Bible and that is the reliability of Bible prophecy. It's fascinating. Names like Josiah, Cyrus and Daniel would be prominent. The precise prophecy concerning the destruction of Babylon would be noted. We could also observe the Bible's accuracy in foretelling the doing and dying of the Lord Jesus Christ. We could likewise note how the Lord Jesus endorsed the Bible as being God's book. However, those things must wait for another time.

And that's the Gospel Truth!