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**Systematic
review**

Paper received: Jan 26 2018
Paper accepted: Mar 26 2018
Article Published: Jul 10 2018

Science in the Bible

Extended summary

The topic of the relationship between science and religion can be approached from several different aspects: science and the Bible; the religiousness of great scientists; the attitudes of the Church towards science; the impact of religion on scientific work; theological dogma and science; science and religion in general, etc. All these aspects are set very broadly and they are always topical. The paper looks at the aspect of science in the Bible. The Bible abounds with ideas that can be quite useful for scientists. For instance, in the 18th and 19th centuries scientists put forward the fundamental law of nature which states that even the smallest particle of matter, as well as the smallest particle of energy, cannot be created or destroyed on their own or by human hand. Many centuries earlier, the Bible had already contained the following quote: “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it” (Ecclesiastes 3:14, King James Version). The seeming conflicts between the Bible and science in dealing with specific facts usually arise in situations where biblical texts are misinterpreted and science offers the correct interpretation of the facts or, vice versa, when a scientific theory turns out to be wrong, while the biblical description of the phenomenon is correct. Some facts, which the interpreters of the Bible misunderstood, proved to be true only when scientists discovered them. Harmonising biblical facts with current scientific theories was a mistake frequently made throughout history. When Galileo concluded that Earth revolves around the Sun, the Church immediately condemned his discovery on the grounds that “it was inconsistent with the current scientific theory” and biblical facts aligned with that theory. At that time, geocentric system, used in the Christian world for more than 15 centuries, was the official scientific standpoint. The aim of this paper is to bring together two seemingly contradictory phenomena, the Bible and science. Although the Bible is not a book which directly deals

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with scientific theories, the facts mentioned in the Bible that are also the subject of scientific research are not contradictory to science. The difference is that the writers of the Bible had stated these facts many centuries before science confirmed them. There is almost no scientific field that was not dealt with in some way in the Bible. We have opted for the passages that represent most clearly the link between science and the Bible. The readers are first informed about the correlation between science and religion, and then the paper focuses on the relationship between science and the Bible. The Bible contains accurate scientific facts related to the fields of astronomy, geology, astrophysics, mathematics, medicine, physics, biology, hydrology, climatology, biometrics, anthropology, and other fields of research. The claim that the Bible does not contradict science has been demonstrated on a wide spectrum of scientific fields.

We believe that such topics are especially useful for teachers of various school subjects and teachers of religion who work in a common education system and also have common general teaching objectives. Informing children about the correlation between science and religion would make it possible for them to understand the views of the world which, although different, are simultaneously firmly intertwined.

Keywords: science, the Bible, correlation, religion, God.

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