**Science and the Bible**

*Does Faith Prevent Scientific Progress?*

I. Does Belief in a Creator Impede the Progress of Science?

A. Many scientists today say that belief in a Creator is detrimental to the progress of science.

B. ““*Creation Science” is not useful, because it can make no successful predictions about nature or the universe. So, it is reasonable to say the expression is an oxymoron, or simply: it’s not science. It has no process of observation, hypothesis, experiment, then predicted outcome.”*

*“Creationism has no predictive ability or qualities, so it is not scientifically useful. Evolution allows us to understand how living things came to be as we see them today and as they were in both the distant and recent past. It allows us to predict the fate and behavior of populations,”*

*“My concern again is that we cannot afford to raise a substantial fraction of the next generation of students, who do not have the skills to think scientifically. We are at a crossroads in the history of the U.S. Without scientifically literate kids, we will fall behind other countries as inventors and innovators. We will lose our edge,”*

*- Bill Nye (*<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/06/bill-nye-the-science-guy-creationism-is-not-a-science-responds-to-creation-museum-video_n_1862393.html>)

C. Most scientists today firmly believe in evolution as the only valid explanation for the origin of life.

1. “According to a 2009 survey, conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 97 percent of scientists believe that humans and other livings things have evolved over time.” “Of the more than 2,500 scientists surveyed, only 2 percent said they believe human beings have existed in their present form since the beginning of time, while 87 percent said they believe that evolution is due to natural processes, such as natural selection.” *(*<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/06/bill-nye-the-science-guy-creationism-is-not-a-science-responds-to-creation-museum-video_n_1862393.html>)

2. Yet ironically, many Americans continue to believe in Creation. “According to a recent Gallup Poll,[46 percent of Americans believe in creationism](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/28/bill-nye-the-science-guy-creationism_n_1834651.html), 32 percent believe in evolution guided by God, and 15 percent believe in atheistic evolution.” *(*<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/06/bill-nye-the-science-guy-creationism-is-not-a-science-responds-to-creation-museum-video_n_1862393.html>)

II. Scientific Progress and Scientists That Believed in a Creator

A. Francis Bacon (1561-1626). Father of modern empiricism (knowledge through sensory experience and observation of nature) and the scientific method which was a turning point in modern science. “Lastly, this I dare affirm in knowledge of nature, that a little natural philosophy, and the first entrance into it, doth dispose the opinion to atheism; but on the other side, much natural philosophy and wading deep into it, will bring about men's minds to religion; wherefore atheism every way seems to be combined with folly and ignorance, seeing nothing can be more justly allotted to be the saying of fools than this, "There is no God"” – Meditationes Sacrae, Of Atheism

B. Isaac Newton (1642-1727). Key figure of scientific revolution who laid foundations for modern physics, made breakthroughs in optics, and developed calculus. A devout Christian, but unorthodox. "Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who set the planets in motion. God governs all things and knows all that is or can be done." – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Newton#cite_note-tiner-127>. “

C. Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778). Father of taxonomy, created binomial nomenclature, the modern system of naming living things, and a founder of modern ecology. “All the species recognized by Botanists came forth from the Almighty Creator's hand, and the number of these is now and always will be exactly the same, while every day new and different florists' species arise from the true species so-called by Botanists, and when they have arisen they finally revert to the original forms. Accordingly to the former have been assigned by Nature fixed limits, beyond which they cannot go: while the latter display without end the infinite sport of Nature.” - *Philosophia Botanica*

D. Gregor Mendel (1822-1884). Augustinian friar who developed the laws of inheritance and is the father of modern genetics; introduced the concept of genes.

E. Louis Pasteur (1822-1895). Biochemist who discovered principals of vaccination, fermentation, and pasteurization. Known as the father of microbiology who established the germ theory of disease. His discoveries have saved countless lives. “A bit of science distances one from God, but much science nears one to Him… The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator.”

F. Lord Kelvin (1824-1907). Formulated First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics, calculated the temperature of absolute zero, and helped with transatlantic telegraph line. “If you study science deep enough and long enough, it will force you to believe in God.”

III. The Bible Invites Investigation of the Natural World

A. I Kings 4:33: Solomon observed and commented on nature.

B. Job 38-39: God challenges Job to explain the natural world.

C. “The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will make you an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass, God is waiting for you.” – Werner Heisenberg. "O God, I am thinking Thy thoughts after Thee." – Johann Kepler.