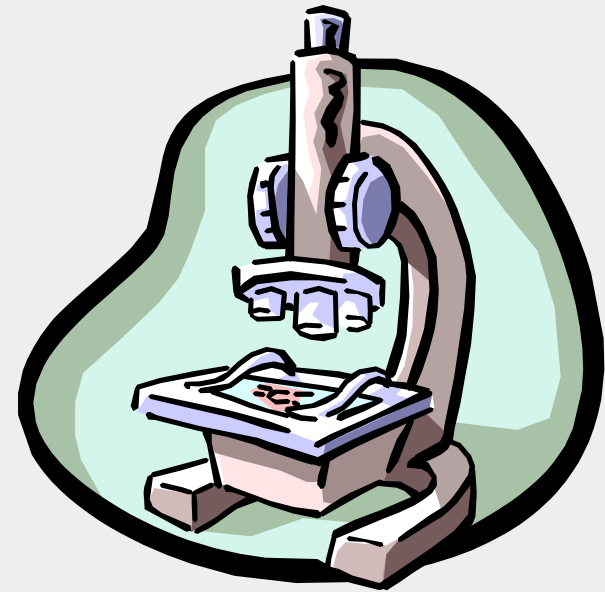
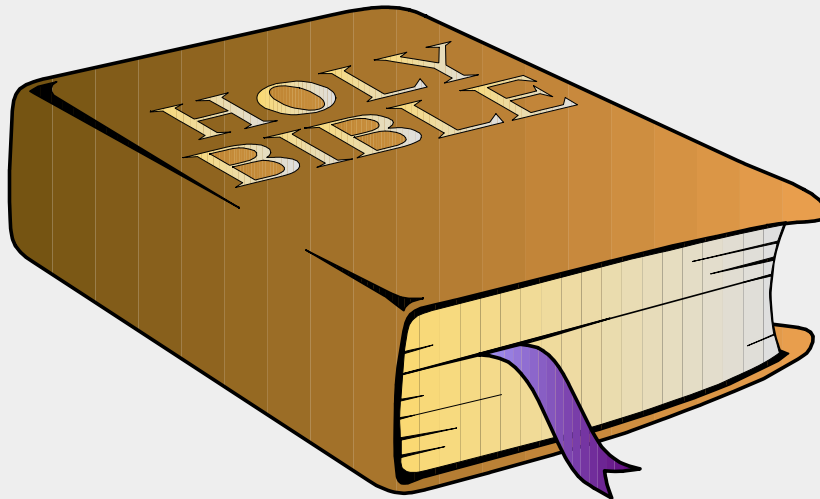




Christianity & Science

Robert C. Newman



What is Christianity?



Various Definitions:

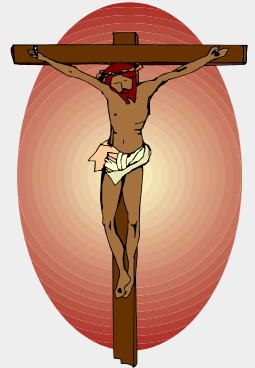
■ Sociological:

- The religion & culture of those who call themselves Christians.
- There is enormous variety here.

■ Theological:

- The beliefs, attitudes & lifestyle taught in the Bible.
- We will try to work with this approach, as best I understand what the Bible teaches.

What is Christianity?



- The universe is the creation of a single, infinite, personal God.
- Among created beings, some were made with the ability to make moral choices & act on them.
- The first humans did so by rebelling against God.
- The main story of our world since then has been God's action to remedy this problem, especially through Jesus.

What is Science?



Various Definitions:

■ Sociological:

- The activities & culture of those who call themselves scientists.

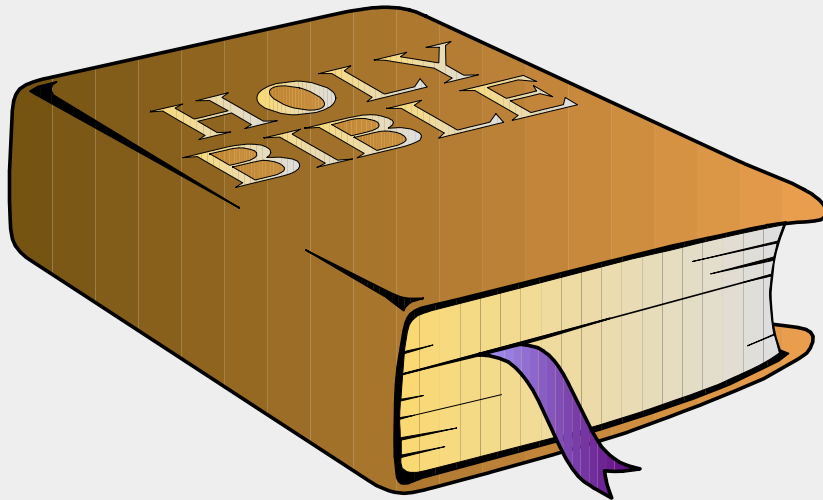
■ Methodological Alternatives:

- An attempt to explain nature without recourse to the supernatural.
- An attempt to explain nature by inference to the best explanation, whether or not this involves the supernatural.

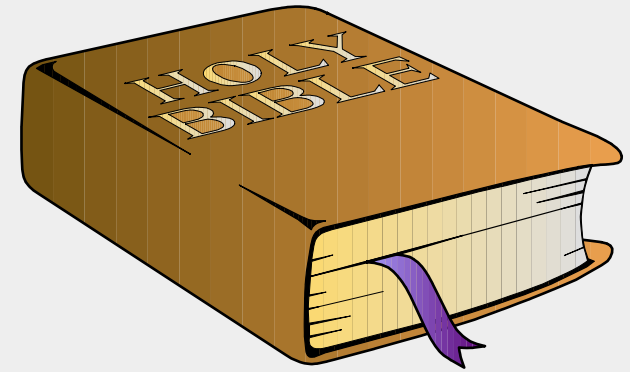
Are Christianity & Science Compatible?

- Depends on definition of science:
 - If science excludes supernatural, no.
 - If science allows supernatural, yes.
- We will suggest, in the course of this talk, that the latter definition of science is to be preferred if one truly wishes to find out what reality is like.

Christianity on Matters re/ Science



A Beginning



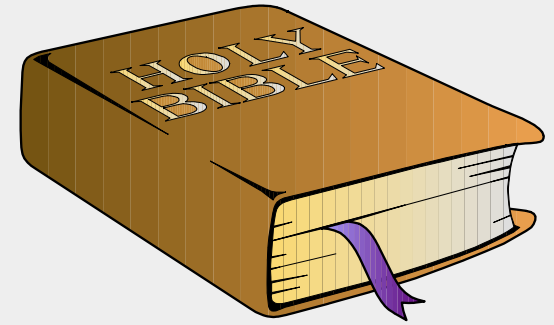
*In the beginning God
created the heavens and
the earth.*

Genesis 1:1

Christianity on Matters re/ Science

- Christianity sees a universe with a beginning.

Universe Displays Craftsmanship



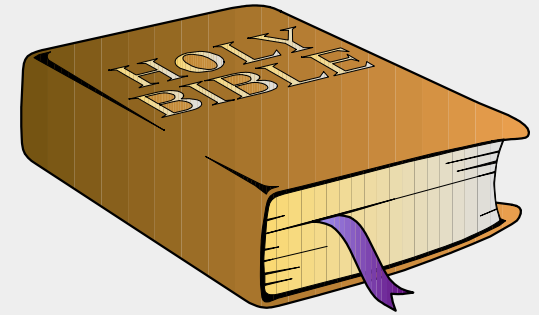
*The heavens declare the
glory of God, their expanse
proclaims his handiwork.*

Psalm 19:1

Christianity on Matters re/ Science

- Christianity sees a universe with a beginning.
- It sees the universe as telling us about God by means of its craftsmanship.

Universe Displays God's Wisdom



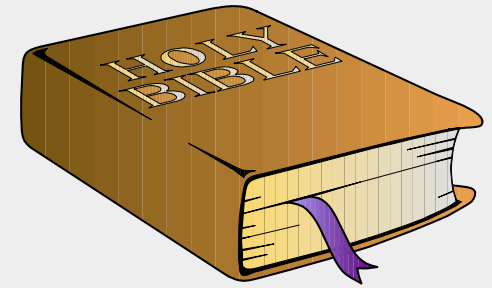
The Lord created me [Wisdom] at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped ... then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight.

Proverbs 8:22-31

Christianity on Matters re/ Science

- Christianity sees a universe with a beginning.
- It sees the universe as telling us about God by means of its craftsmanship.
- The universe shows us His wisdom.

God's Power & Deity Seen in the Universe



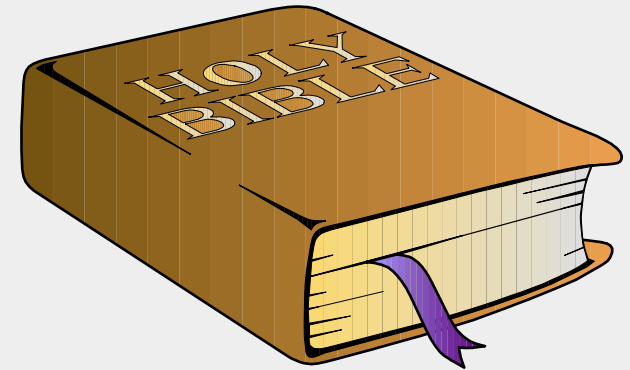
The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them ... For his invisible attributes ... his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made, so they are without excuse.

Romans 1:18-20

Christianity on Matters re/ Science

- Christianity sees a universe with a beginning.
- It sees the universe as telling us about God by means of its craftsmanship.
- The universe shows us His wisdom.
- It shows His power & deity in such a clear way as to render us without excuse for not recognizing & responding to it.

God in Control of the Universe



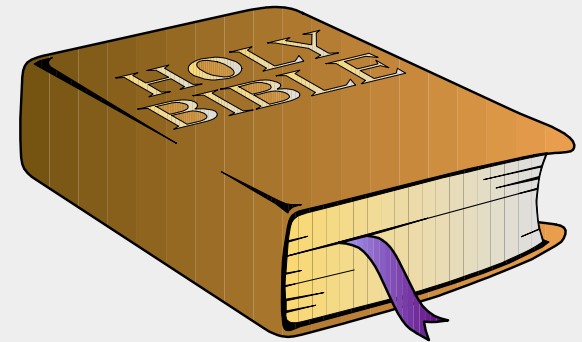
*I am God, and there is no other; I am
God, and there is none like me,
declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet
done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose.'*

Isaiah 46:9-10

Christianity on Matters re/ Science

- Christianity sees a universe with a beginning.
- It sees the universe as telling us about God by means of its craftsmanship.
- The universe shows us His wisdom.
- It shows His power & deity in such a clear way as to render us without excuse for not recognizing & responding to it.
- Christianity sees God in complete control of the universe.

Universe will End



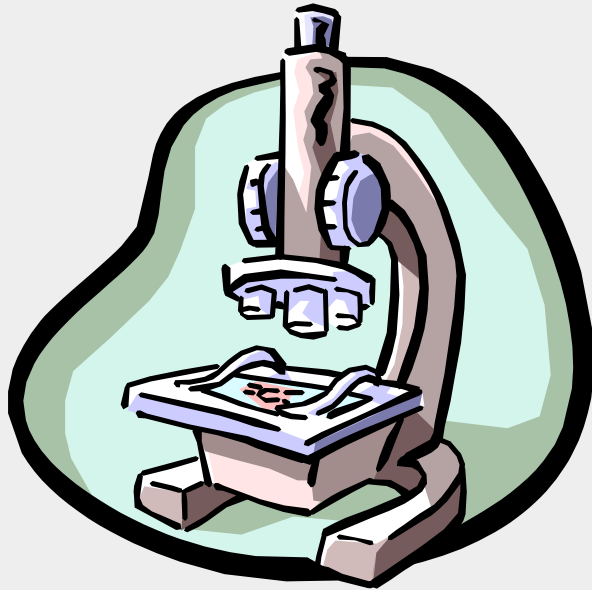
Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Psalm 102:25-27

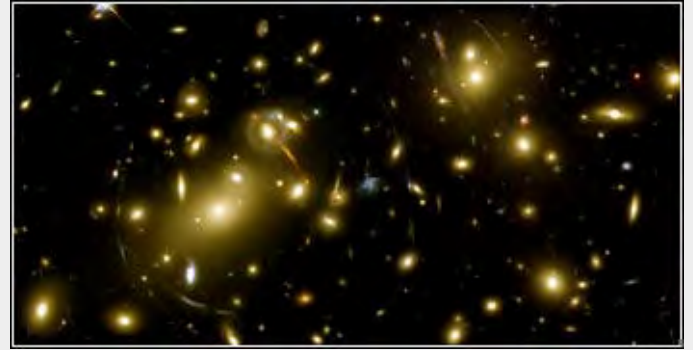
Christianity on Matters re/ Science

- Christianity sees a universe with a beginning.
- It sees the universe as telling us about God by means of its craftsmanship.
- The universe shows us His wisdom.
- It shows His power & deity in such a clear way as to render us without excuse for not recognizing & responding to it.
- Christianity sees God in complete control of the universe.
- It sees God as bringing it to an end.

Science/Nature & Christian Claims



Cosmology



- The Bible says there was a beginning, when God created heaven & earth.
- Until recently, many scientists claimed the universe always existed.
- Now evidence has accumulated that the universe apparently began (from nothing) at a finite time in the past.
- Nature says there was a beginning.

Design in the Universe



- The Bible pictures God as having made the universe by His wisdom.
- Scientists who are atheists claim that the universe is the way it is by chance.
- In recent years, strong evidence has accumulated that the universe is marvelously adjusted to allow life to exist.
- Nature says the universe is designed.

Origin of the Earth



- Bible believers often claim the earth was made instantly in its finished form just a few thousand years ago.
- Nature seems to teach that the earth had a long history before it reached the form it has today.
- The Biblical account of creation in Genesis 1 is consistent with the evidence from astronomy & geology for an old earth.

Origin of Life



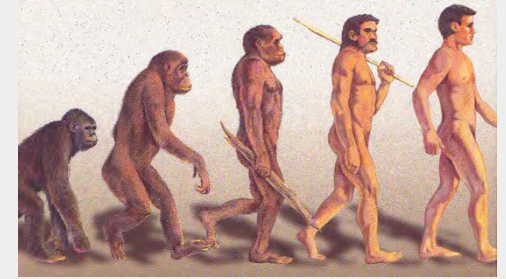
- The Bible says that God created life.
- Some scientists claim that life arose from non-life by purely natural processes.
- The complex functionality of living things seems clearly to surpass what could happen by chance in our universe.
- Nature points to something beyond itself by containing the phenomenon we call "life."

The Diversity of Life



- The Bible says God made the diverse living things, but does not give us much information about how He did so.
- Many scientists claim that all the variety of life evolved from the simplest living things by purely mindless, random processes.
- Detailed studies of the fossil record and of living things point to some sort of intelligent guidance or intervention.

Origin of Humans

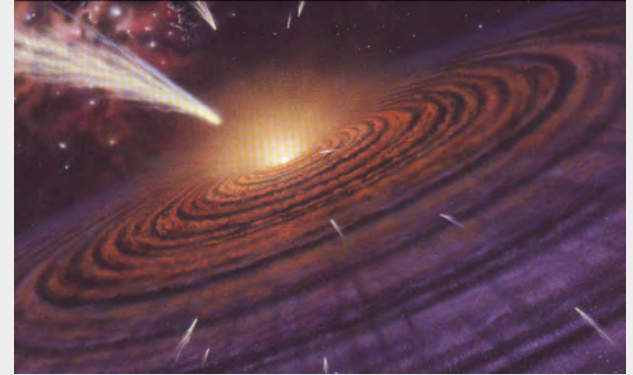


- The Bible says God made humans in His own image.
- Many scientists claim humans developed naturally from apes.
- Though humans are quite similar to the apes physically, there is a great chasm between them in regard to intellect, initiative and spirituality.
- This does not look like something that happened by chance.

A Tour of Genesis One

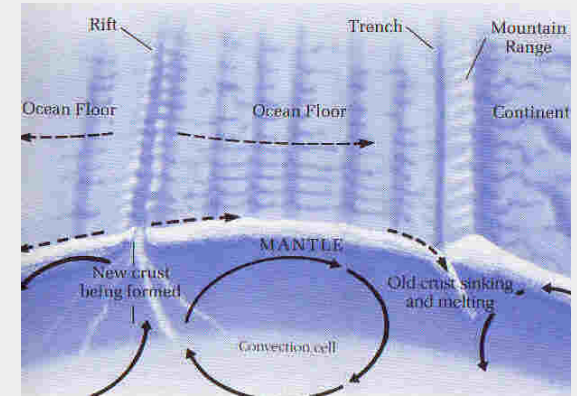
- In the beginning, God created heaven & earth.
 - A beginning, perhaps the "big bang."
- The earth was formless & empty.
 - Earth (& Sun) formed from cloud of gas & dust.
- Darkness over the surface of the deep.
 - Gas cloud becomes dark within as it contracts.

Tour of Genesis



- God says, "Let there be light."
 - With further contraction, cloud begins to glow.
- God separates light from darkness.
 - Material to form planets pushed outside central bulge.
- God calls light 'day' & darkness 'night.'
 - Planets form; their rotation gives night & day.

Tour of Genesis



- Let the waters be gathered, land appear.
 - Motion of plates produces continents, basins.
- Let the land produce vegetation.
 - Plant life appears on land.
- Let sun, moon and stars appear in the sky.
 - Plants oxygenate atmosphere, clearing sky so space visible; provide air for animals.

Tour of Genesis



- Let waters & air fill with animals.
 - Marine and air animals appear.
- Let the land produce various animals.
 - Land animals appear.
- Let us make mankind in our image.
 - Humans appear last in the fossil record.

Conclusions

- A striking correlation between nature and Scripture!
- Both picture:
 - A universe with a beginning
 - A designed universe
 - An origin of life that surpasses chance
 - A diversity of life that suggests intervention
- The details of Genesis 1 match our best scientific model for the early earth.

Conclusions on Origins

- All this comes by taking the biblical account of origins seriously, but not taking it to teach a recent creation in just a few days.
- This is reasonable in view of the biblical teaching that both nature and the Bible are God's revelation, and that God cannot lie.

For Further Reading

- Websites:
 - www.ibri.org
 - www.reasons.org
- Ross, *Creator & Cosmos*
- Newman & Eckelmann, *Genesis One & the Origin of the Earth*
- Denton, *Nature's Destiny*
- Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*
- Newman & Wiester, *What's Darwin Got to Do With It?*

