

You Can Trust God's Science

God has spoken to us in the Bible. He has declared that all Scripture, every word and every detail of the Bible, was given to us, supernaturally through inspiration. Inspiration means God's Word is absolutely trustworthy because it originated from God Himself, and He is the God we can trust. Perhaps the strongest statement of inspiration is the classic verse in 2 Timothy 3:16. You should note it in your Bible if you do not already know it: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

God says that His Word offers us four eternally beneficial guideposts:

1. Doctrine—God telling us what is right.
2. Reproof—God showing us where we are wrong.
3. Correction—God explaining to us how to get right with Him.
4. Instruction in righteousness—God teaching us how to stay right with Him.

Even though God has said that *all* of His Word is true, perhaps the most attacked portions of God's Word are those where God Himself explains the origin of the universe and the origin of mankind.

As we open to Genesis 1, we are in the midst of a look at the absolutely trustworthy Bible that God has written. We each need to have a firm confidence in the Bible. Absolutely, positively you and I hold in our hands and our hearts the very Word God spoke through inspiration to His apostles and prophets. These words God spoke are preserved and recorded in only one book—the Bible. The Bible is God's Word; and the Bible is the Book you can trust.

God's Word Is Accurate Scientifically

There are seven self-authenticating elements of God's Word. The first which we have already examined is that only the Bible contains specific, verifiable prophecies. Fully 25 percent of the Bible is prophetic.

Secondly, God gave another test to verify the authenticity of His Word—the scientific reliability of the Bible. Join me for a brief science lesson from the Bible. We will start with ornithology or bird-science.

We know that birds were created directly and specifically by God. That truth is contained in the only eye-witness account of creation. Genesis 1:21 says, "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and **every winged fowl after his kind**: and God saw that *it was good*" (KJV).

Our Awesome Creator's fingerprints upon birds can be seen in their amazingly engineered shapes and forms. Each time Jesus drew the attention of His listeners to the sparrows, He was pointing to His handiwork in creation.

Even the lowliest or most common members of the bird family are engineered in a more advanced aerodynamic form than even our newest and most advanced fighter

jets. More than that, birds are just one part of the chorus of nature declaring the glory of their Creator. Listen to God speak in Job 12:7–9:

“But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?”

God has declared that the heavens and the earth are involved in a day and night testimony to Him.¹ If you look closely, you will see that there is no way that this world or any of its creatures could have come into existence in any other way than by the finger of God.

Birds Are Designer Dependent

One of the disciplines of science, ornithology, is a quandary to evolutionary thought. Here’s the problem: Did birds evolve first or second in the rise of animals?

It is almost unbelievable to watch a creature that can so uniquely adapt to the air and become a “flying wedge” that swims through the air as effortlessly as fish dart through the sea. For just a moment, ponder with me a look at the “Designer dependent” creatures we call birds. This world, filled with birds, cries out with the handiwork of an Intelligent Designer and loudly negates evolutionary chance.

If you could sail alongside a bird in flight and notice its form as it flew, you would be witnessing from its beak to the last tail feather an absolute study in complete streamlining. In all the world of biology no creature is more perfectly equipped to resist the laws of gravity than birds. A bird can float through the air like the down of a milkweed pod and yet weigh in at as much as twenty pounds!

How? Nearly every part of a bird’s framework, anatomy, and even some quills are hollow and air-filled. A bird has a much higher body temperature than mammals, and so this trapped air is heated. Much like the power of the hot air balloons that float around the skies of Kalamazoo from time to time, the bird with air trapped at a higher temperature than the atmospheric point is buoyant!

Now think of water birds that float atop water like oil because of this hollow, air-filled design. How can they sink to the bottom and feed off the materials they need for life? There is probably no more vivid signature of God upon any bird than there is upon the bird ideally fitted to live by Pacific Mountain streams—the Pacific Ouzel.

Out West where the streams run fast, the waters are cold and run white with the foam of waterfalls. If you were to watch closely, you would find God’s witness to creation, the ouzel. Of all the birds catalogued and studied in ornithology, none are more buoyant than the ouzel. Like grease poured into water it floats even in the roughest waves at the base of waterfalls.

Looking closely we discover that the ouzel actually floats above the water in contrast to the partially submerged bodies of ducks and geese. Without warning he disappears beneath the foaming water. Straight down to the bottom like an oversized lead sinker on a boy’s fishing line the ouzel hits the bottom. If you could see underwater, you would see the ouzel calmly walking along the bottom feeding on its favorite

delicacies. With its beak filled to the brim with what it desires, it wades out of the water onto the stream bank, swallows the feast, shakes itself off, and in moments is back floating above the water like smoke. How is this possible that the most buoyant bird can walk firmly through the current of a stream on the bottom?

All this happens only because the Designer specially equipped the ouzel. Strong muscles surrounding its body allow the bird to completely expel the trapped air and cause the bird's weight to be sufficient for it to sink to the bottom and walk about. Now, to float like a cork or sink like a stone at will is an impossible ability to evolve by chance. No human could conceive, design, or even modify such an apparatus as this lowly member of the class of Genesis 1:21b!

Yet in the beginning God, in a moment of creation, designed the magnificent Pacific Ouzel and countless other marvels like it which float and fly about this earth declaring the glory of God their Creator!

We Worship and Serve Our Creator

Every time a hiker comes upon a mountain stream and watches the display of creative genius built into every single Pacific Ouzel, the ouzel is shouting out the reality of God as the Creator. If we will pause and adjust our minds to the reality that the God of the Bible is the God of creation, we can expand our capacity to worship.

In Nehemiah 9:5 we find the start of one of the greatest recorded prayers in God's Word. This worship-filled prayer is the longest prayer in the Bible. Starting midway through verse 5, listen to these words:

“Stand up *and* bless the LORD your God . . . You alone *are* the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.”

Thus the second reason why I believe the Bible is true is because God's Word exhibits complete authenticity though its absolute scientific accuracy. The Bible is one Book comprised of sixty-six smaller books, written by over forty different authors over a period of sixteen centuries and on three different continents. Most of these writers never met, never knew each other, and hardly even knew what the others had written before them or after them. Yet every single time they wrote down a scientific fact—that fact was absolutely true!

Now look at the Book you hold in your hand—not one word has ever been proven wrong; not one fact has ever needed updating; not one scientific statement has ever needed correction; not one old hypothesis or theory has ever needed adjustment due to new findings. God's Word has no theories or educated guesses. It is truth, absolutely true facts; truth you can stake your life and eternity upon; changeless and enduring truth that will last forever. In essence, when we come to Scripture we find absolute truth.

Have you ever read an old biology book? It is funny to see how vastly the biological sciences are changing. How about an old astronomy textbook, have you looked at any of those and seen how completely inaccurate they are? So much has

changed. In fact in nearly every area of the sciences there is flux, change, restatement, and casting out of the old and disproved statements. Often they are filled with complete errors and mistaken theories. Not so with God, His eternal Word says it right the *first time!*

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness *is* unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all *are* thy servants” (Psalm 119:89–91 KJV).

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Peter 1:23–25 KJV).

Scientific Reasons to Trust the God of the Bible

As we journey through the Scriptures, let’s look further at the incredible scientific accuracy and authenticity of this Book thousands of years ahead of science. If you have heard of Bible passages that are in dispute, just wait. It takes a while for science to catch up with God!

Trust the God who explained astrophysics thousands of years before the first astrophysicist. Just two of the fascinating realms of the makeup of our universe that these scientists study are the mysteries of dark matter and gravity. What does the Bible have to say about astrophysics?

Dark Matter and Energy: Basically there are two realms of the universe—“normal matter” and “dark matter.” The familiar normal matter makes up stars, gases, dust, and particles called hadrons which are best known as protons and neutrons. Dark matter or energy is the invisible part of the universe, but its presence can be inferred through its gravitational influence on its surroundings. Through mathematical computations scientists are finding that the gravitational forces show there is more to our universe than what can be seen. There is a gravitational tug that far exceeds the amount of the visible universe. Physicists believe that dark matter makes up 96 percent of the mass of the universe compared with the 4 percent of normal matter. Despite its pervasive influence, no one knows what dark matter or energy consists of. Yet what does God say about this fundamental part of the universe? “Where *is* the way *where* light dwelleth? And *as for* darkness, where *is* the place thereof?” (Job 38:19 KJV).

God, Who knows all, divides the entire universe into the same two elements we have only recently come to explore: light (the visible universe) and dark (the invisible and mysterious realm of dark matter and energy).

Gravity: The second mysterious area of astrophysics is gravity. Gravity is described as “the weakest of the four fundamental forces, yet it is the dominant force in the universe for shaping the large scale structure of galaxies, stars, etc.”² What does God say about gravitation? “Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?” (Job 38:31 KJV).

One of the major areas of study in astronomy is the gravitational tug of stars and systems. It just happens that Pleiades and Orion are the only two stellar objects visible from earth that are bound gravitationally. Every other star that you can see from earth is independent from each other, but the seven stars of Pleiades are bound together by gravity; likewise Orion's bands are gravitationally bound.

We can trust the God who through His Word, explained astrophysics thousands of years before the first astrophysicist!

Trust the God who explained astronomy thousands of years before the first telescope. Just one feature of the vastness of our universe has to do with the number of stars. Up to the time of Galileo and Kepler (early 17th Century) most of the scientific world thought there were 1,000 stars. But God has always said that humans will never be able to catalogue and count the number of stars in the heavens: "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me" (Jeremiah 33:22 KJV).

In fact, each year astronomers grow more and more unsure about how many stars there really are. As our telescopic reach extends further into the heavens, what were thought to be stars are really galaxies, and what were thought to be galaxies are discovered to be clusters of galaxies. The number of stars has grown to numbers that are beyond estimation or calculation, which is exactly what God said. From our brief look at the stars we can know three assuring truths:

1. We can trust the *power* of the Creator God who made them all.

"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also" (Genesis 1:16 KJV).

2. We can trust the *plan* of the Creator God who named them all.

"He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by *their* names" (Psalm 147:4 KJV).

3. We can trust the *promises* of the Creator God who sustains them all.

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17 KJV).

We can trust the God who through His Word explained astronomy thousands of years before the first telescope and astrophysics thousands of years before the first astrophysicist. He is trustworthy, and He is the only one who can lead us safely from this doomed planet.

A couple of weeks ago we were reminded again of the September 11th tragedy. One of the most moving accounts of that horrific day was the story of the firemen who guided people down the dark, smoke-filled stairwells. Only those who trusted the firemen to guide them made it to safety.

Jesus Christ stands in this sin-darkened world and cries out to anyone who will listen—I am the Way; I am the Truth that can set you free; I am the Life that never ends, the Hope that never dies, the Peace that never gets exhausted. "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

If you have never reached out and taken the hand of Jesus, He is here today and has His hand reaching out to you right now. He has the power that made the stars; trust His power to forgive and cleanse you from all sin. He has the plan that named the stars; trust His plan for your life so that you can live the abundant life He offers. He has the promise that He sustains the universe; trust His promises that He will never leave you, lose you, or fail you. Trust Jesus today.

¹ Psalm 19.

² "Gravity," <<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/Hbase/grav.html>> (January 1, 2009).