

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE

BUT ARE AFRAID TO ASK

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Are Faith and Science at Odds with One Another?
Psalm 19

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To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
- 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

9 the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Are faith and science at odds with one another?

God's *World* reveals truth about God – vv. 1–6

- “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (v. 1).
- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)

- “And God said, ‘Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ . . . (Genesis 1:6).
- “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth’ (Genesis 1:14–15).
- “And there was evening and there was morning . . .” (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31).
- Science points to, not away from, God.
 - “Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge” (v. 2).
- General Revelation – God’s communication of himself to all persons at all times in all places.
 - “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:20).

God’s Word reveals truth of God – vv. 7–10

- “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple” (v. 7).
- Science offers incomplete knowledge of God.
 - Special Revelation – God’s communication of himself to specific people at specific times in specific places.
 - “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16).

God’s World and God’s Word are complementary

- “We know God by two means: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God’s eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict humans and to leave them without excuse. Second, God makes himself known to us more clearly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God’s glory and for our salvation” (Belgic Confession, Art. 2).
- Science and faith answer different questions about God.
 - “All good and true Christians should understand that truth, wherever they may find it, belongs to their Lord” (Augustine, *Teaching Christianity*, Bk. 2, ch. 18).
 - Science answers *how* questions
 - Faith answers *why* questions
 - “The author’s aim is ultimately *theological*—to say something about God, the nature of the world, and the identity and destiny of human beings who are created in his image (Gen 1:27) (Todd Wilson, “Mere Creation,” 49).
- Science and faith are not at odds with one another.
 - Whether supernatural or natural, God is involved.

- “I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth” (Apostles’ Creed).

“To prohibit the whole science would be to censure a hundred passages of holy Scripture which teach us that the glory and greatness of Almighty God are marvelously discerned in all his works and divinely read in the open book of heaven.” (Galileo, “Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany”).

God’s world and God’s Word reveal complementary truth about God.

