

Science and the Bible

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Who knows what these are?

- ▶ Joule
 - ▶ Kelvin
 - ▶ Pascal
 - ▶ Newton
 - ▶ Faraday
- James Joule (1818–1889)
 - Lord Kelvin (1824–1907)
 - Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)
 - Isaac Newton (1642–1727)
 - Michael Faraday (1791–1867)
 - Francis Bacon (1561–1626)
 - Johann Kepler (1571–1630)
 - Louis Pasteur (1822–1895)
 - James Maxwell (1831–1879)

Scientists and the Bible

James Joule (1818–1889)

(1824–1907)

Thinking God's thoughts after Him...

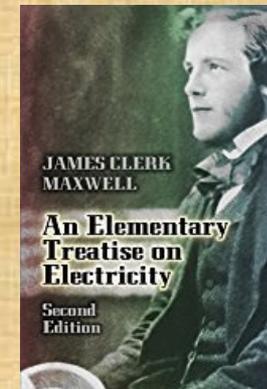
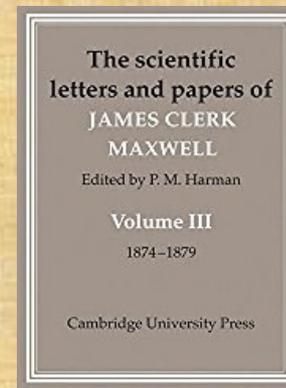
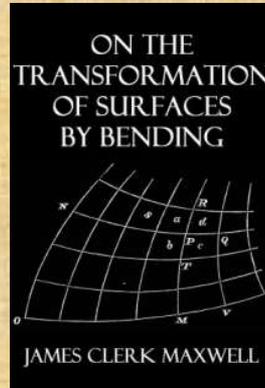
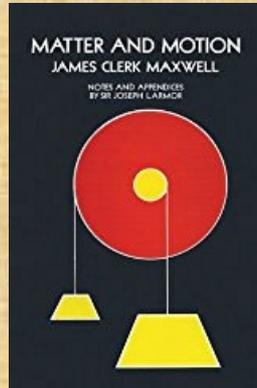
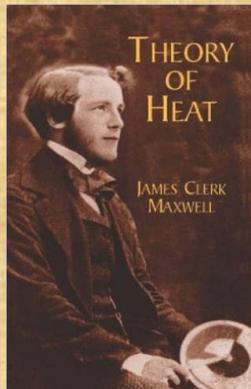
...Discovering what God had set in motion

- Michael
- Francis Bacon (1561–1626)
- Johann Kepler (1571–1630)
- Louis Pasteur (1822–1895)
- James Maxwell (1831–1879)



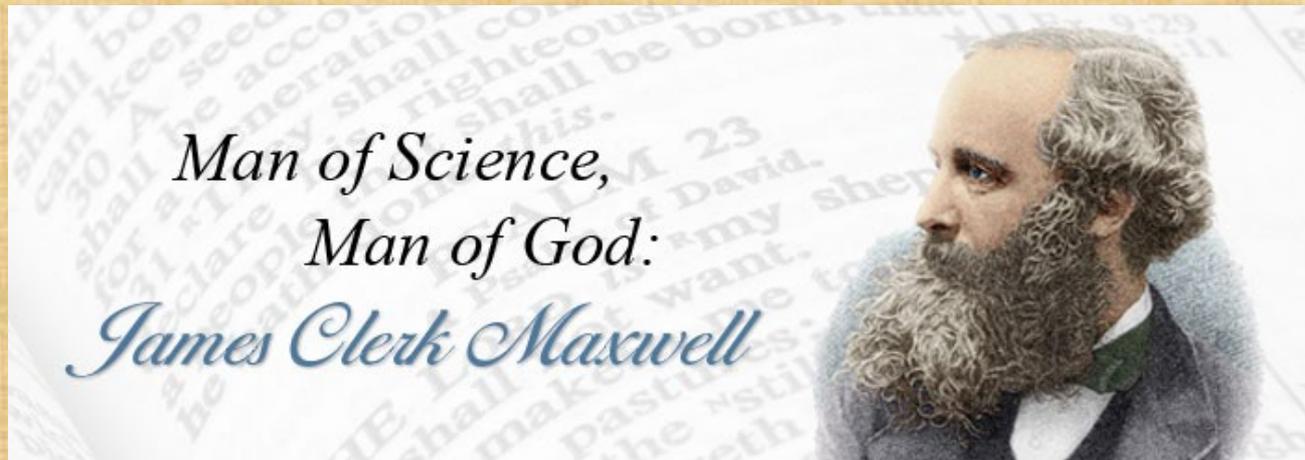
James Maxwell

- ▶ Edinburg University (age 16)
- ▶ Cambridge, Kings College
- ▶ Worked with Michael Faraday
 - *Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism (1873)*
 - *Kinetic theory of Matter*
- ▶ *Theory of color photography (1861)*
- ▶ *Advances in thermodynamics*



James Maxwell

- ▶ *“Teach us to study the works of Thy hands, that we may subdue the earth to use and strengthen our reason for thy service.”*



*Psalm 111:2 – carved on door to his lab
Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.*

The Great Debate

- ▶ Science and the Bible
 - Are they compatible? Complementary?
- ▶ Can you be a scientist (or engineer) and be a Christian? Or have any faith?
- ▶ Can the Bible be trusted in matters of
 - Faith
 - History (past or future)
 - Science

Science: knowledge

- ▶ **Scientia: *noun* L. knowledge**
 - In a general sense, knowledge, or certain knowledge; the comprehension or understanding of truth or facts by the mind. The **science of God** must be perfect (Webster, 1828).
- ▶ **Proverbs 1:7**
 - The fear of the LORD is **the beginning of knowledge**; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- ▶ **Colossians 1:10**
 - So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God**.

The Source of knowledge

▶ Psalm 19:1–2

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

▶ Romans 1:19–20

- For what can be made known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 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. So they are without excuse.

Revealed knowledge

▶ General revelation

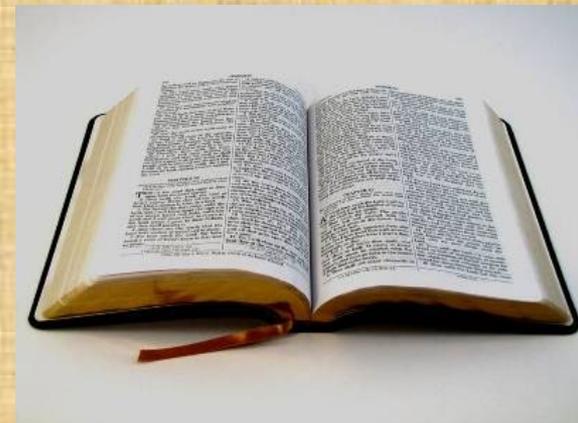
◦ Creation

- Teaches us that God exists
- Teaches us that God made everything
- Teaches us some of Gods attributes

▶ Special revelation

◦ God's Word to us

- Teaches us why (and how) He made us
- Teaches us how to reach Him
- Teaches us who God is



Attributes of God

▶ From Creation:

- Existence
 - Eternal
- Power
 - Omnipotent
- Knowledge
 - Omniscient
- Presence
 - Omnipresent

• From Scripture

- Holy/Perfect
- True
- Justice
- Love
- Mercy
- Grace

Special revelation

▶ 2 Timothy 3:16–17

- **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**



▶ John 20:30–31

- **Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

Science and the Bible

- ▶ The Bible is
 - God's special revelation about Himself
 - Not a science textbook
 - however, it is accurate in matters of science
 - Shape of the earth
 - Earth suspended in space
 - Cycle of air currents
 - Hydrologic cycle



Shape of the earth

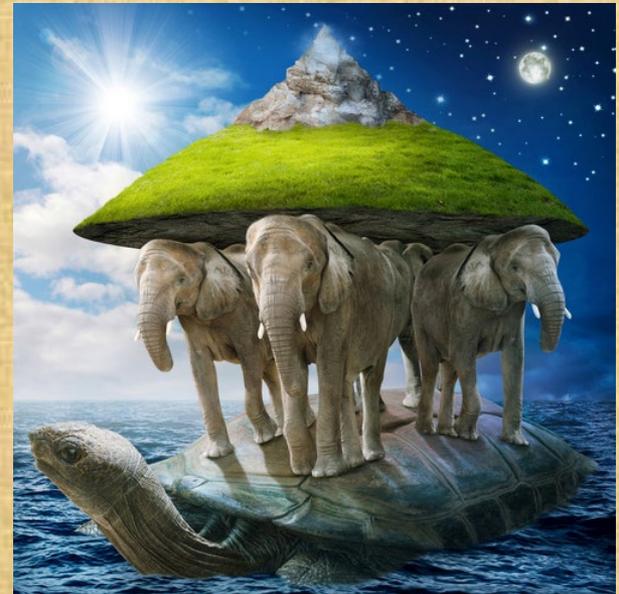
- ▶ Isaiah 40:22
 - It is he who sits above *the circle of the earth*, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers...
- ▶ Proverbs 8:27
 - When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When *He drew a circle on the face of the deep*,



Earth suspended in space

▶ Job 26:7

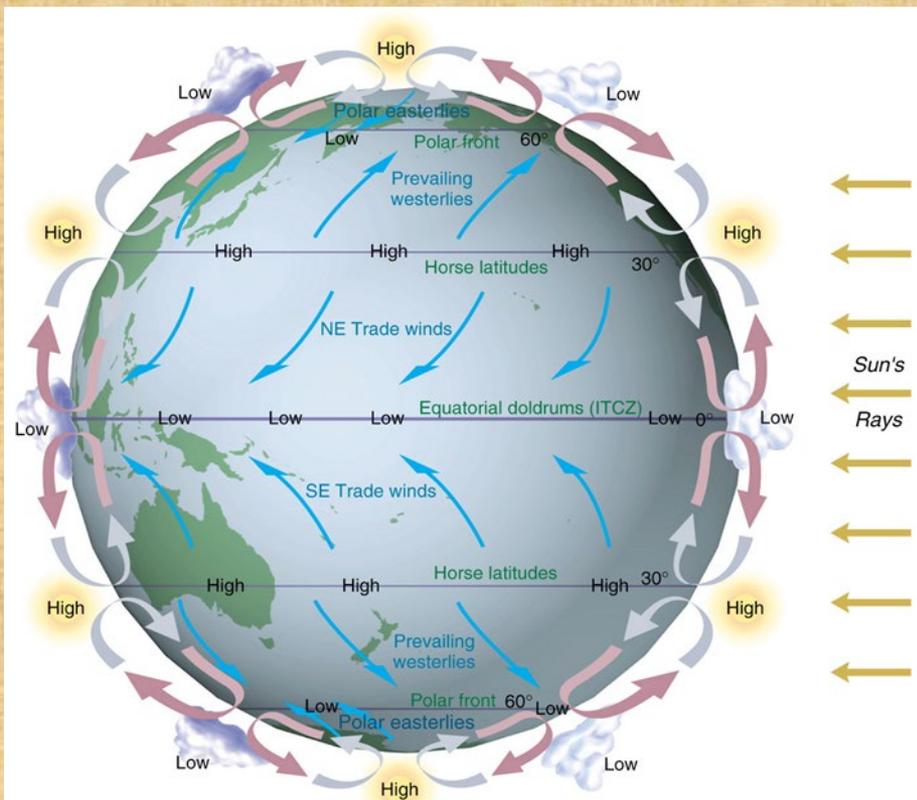
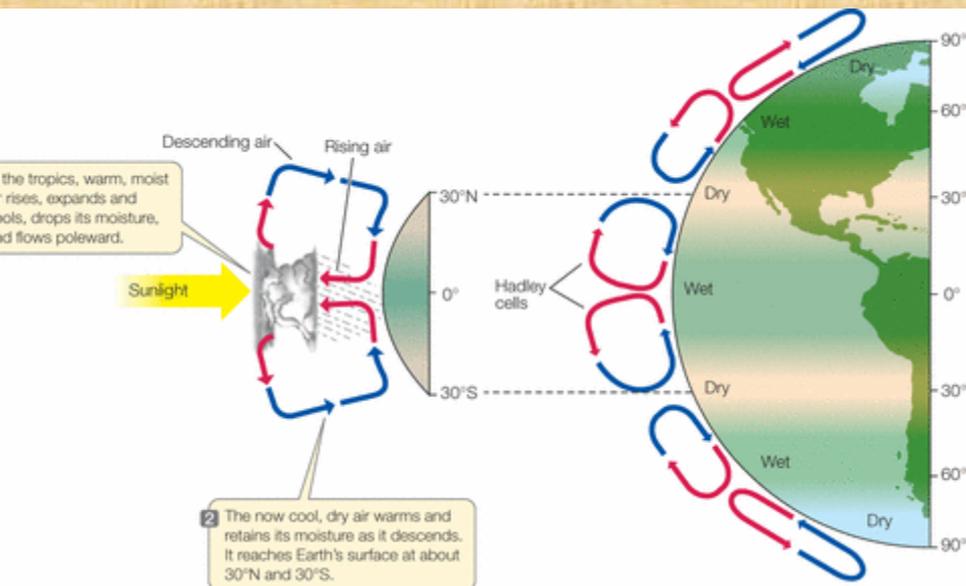
- He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing.



Cycle of air currents

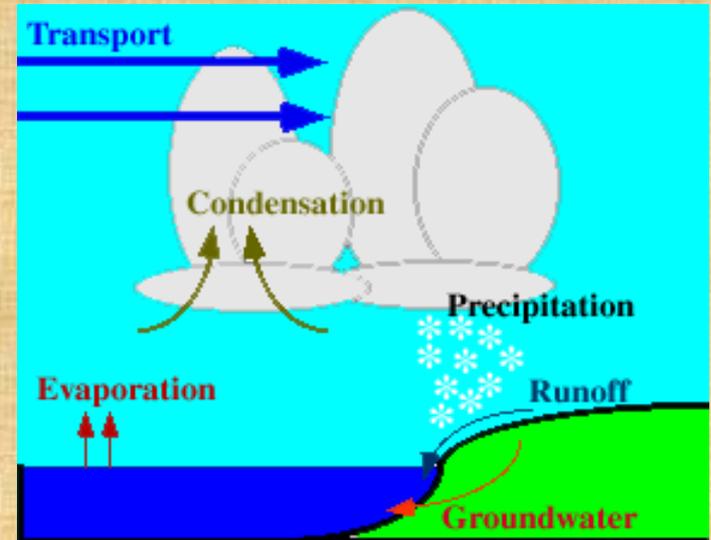
▶ Ecclesiastes 1:6

- The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it **whirleth about continually**, and the wind **returneth** again according to his circuits."



Hydrologic cycle

- ▶ Psalm 135:7
 - He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth...
- ▶ Job 26:27–28
 - He draws up the drops of water, which distil as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind...
- ▶ Ecclesiastes 1:7
 - All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again...



God's Word is true

- ▶ Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. (Prov 30:5)
- ▶ See to it that no one takes you **captive** by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition.. .(Colossians 2:8)



Quiz

- ▶ What do you believe about Jesus?
 - Died on a cross?
 - Took the punishment for our sins?
 - Lived without sin?
 - Walked on water?
 - Fed 5000+ people with 2 fish and 5 loaves?
 - Was resurrected from the dead after 3 days?
- ▶ Why do you believe these things?
- ▶ What does **science** say?

Quiz 2

- ▶ Do you believe that:
 - David slew Goliath?
 - Jonah was swallowed by a great fish?
 - Moses, through God, parted the Red Sea?
 - The plagues of Egypt?
 - Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt after arriving as a slave?
 - God made a covenant with Abraham?
 - Noah built an Ark?
 - God destroyed the **entire world** with a flood?
 - God created everything in **6 days**?

- ▶ Why/why not?
- ▶ What does **science** say?
- ▶ What does the **Word of God** say?

Worldview

- ▶ We all have the same evidence...
 - ...it is our starting point that affects our conclusions.



Is this important?

Not a matter of **salvation...**

...but a matter of authority.



You can trust the Bible

- ▶ God is powerful, all knowledgeable
- ▶ God is holy and perfect
- ▶ God is trustworthy
- ▶ God's word is trustworthy
 - New Testament
 - Old Testament
 - All 66 books
 - All 50 chapters of Genesis
 - Even Genesis 1–11

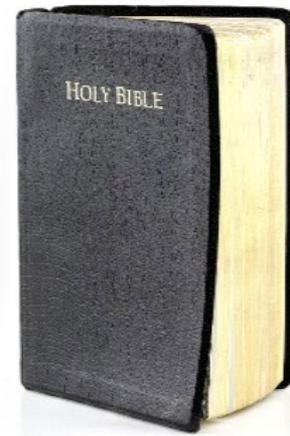
Eternal knowledge

- ▶ Romans 11:33
 - Oh, the depth of the **riches** and **wisdom** and **knowledge** of God! How **unsearchable** are his judgments and how **inscrutable** his ways!



Summary

- ▶ Science: knowledge
- ▶ God is the source of all knowledge
- ▶ We have a holy and perfect God and **His word is holy and perfect as well**
 - All of it
- ▶ Great men of science trusted the Bible and made amazing **discoveries**
- ▶ The Christian faith is not only **compatible** with science, it is **essential** to it.



Science and the Bible

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