

Tough Question: Does Science Disprove the Bible?
Psalm 19
Sermon Outline

Introduction: We live in a time where science and God do not seem to be easy friends. There are at least two related questions: (1) Does science disprove God? And, does science disprove the Bible? A related, more practical question: How can I find God and love him more fully in nature and in the Bible?

I) Does science disprove God?

A) Science can neither prove nor disprove God

- 1) Science within its proper limits: methodological naturalism
 - A good thing. Commanded by God (“Subdue the earth”)
- 2) What science cannot do
 - The mistake that is often made: To dress up a grand theory about everything in scientific clothes
- 3) The mistake that some believers make: Proving God from science
 - The God of the gaps

B) Science does not need to prove (or disprove) God

Psalm 19: The heavens declare the glory of God...The law of the Lord is perfect

- 1) God’s wordless speech: vv. 1-6
- 2) God’s intimate and transforming torah: vv. 7-11

II) Does science disprove the Bible?

A) No. But it may legitimately raise questions about our interpretation of the Bible

Ps 1:1: The heavens declare the glory of God...

vv. 4b-6: Is the earth stationary? Does the sun pass over it?

vv. 12-13: *Who can discern his errors...Keep your servant from presumptuous sins.*

B) Illustration: what is Genesis 1?

- Two views held by Bible lovers
- The question for our time

III) How can we know the God of nature and Scripture better?

- Push against naturalistic reductionism (“nothing buttery”)
- Let the scriptures in
- Rejoice that the Creator is “my rock and my redeemer”

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Reflect upon the following statement by Richard Dawkins: “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference...DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.” What is he saying? Do you agree? Do you disagree? Why?
- 2) Respond to the following rejoinder to Professor Dawkins: “When Professor Dawkins says, ‘DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is,’ he is saying much less than he suggests. He is merely stating the obvious—that nature in itself has no intelligence. But his statement tells us nothing about whether or not there exists a Person who has created DNA, who sustains it, and who uses it in a highly complex process that we observe and are beginning to understand. Of course, if Professor Dawkins means that matter is all that there is, he himself would do well to stop making such confident assertions about things, because he himself is merely matter (how could he not be merely matter, since matter is all that there is?), and matter (as he asserts) has no intelligence.”
- 3) Distinguish between science as methodological naturalism (a way at getting at the truth of things in nature that uses natural means—observation and experiment) and science as a grand theory about everything. Why is the second of these not legitimately science?
- 4) Christians have frequently used the “God of the gaps” argument to assert the reality of God in response to secularized science. They have sought and found certain things in nature that defy the explanatory power of science and said, “Aha! Here, where science cannot explain, we see evidence for God.” Can you think of some weaknesses in this argument? Some say that irreducible complexity (that certain things that we find in nature seem to have had to come “ready made” rather than through an evolutionary process) is another example of the “God of the gaps” argument. Do you agree?
- 5) Psalm 19 does not set out to prove God. It simply and joyously asserts him—declaring him to be obvious and worthy of our praise both in nature and in Torah. Paul picks up its assertion about God in nature in Romans 1:18ff. Does it make sense that Scripture simply asserts God, rather than setting out to prove him?
- 6) How is declaring “the heavens declare the glory of God” different from asserting that science proves God?
- 7) Psalm 19 makes evident that God is not playing “cat and mouse” with us—that he has made himself clear to us, that he wants us to know him, and that he expects us to respond to him in worship and obedience. If his revelation is so clear, why do so many remain unconvinced? (vv. 12-13 point to an explanation)
- 8) What does Psalm 19, especially vv. 11-14, reveal about the attitudes of heart that must accompany a convincing discovery of God in both nature and the Bible?