

Which Will You Accept?

THE BIBLE, THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD,
OR THE INFIDEL THEORIES OF MODERN ASTRONOMY

By Wilbur Glenn Voliva

IN THE Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion we accept the Bible as the Inspired Word of God. We believe that the Bible, in the original languages in which it was written, was verbally inspired—that is, that not only the thoughts were inspired, but also the words.

We accept all that the Bible has to say regarding the earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars, and we do not propose to surrender the Word of God to infidel astronomers.

There has been and there is still, a raging controversy between the Christian religion and so-called science.

Modern Astronomy, Evolution, and Higher Criticism are a trinity of evils—Modern Astronomy by no means being the least of the three—which are doctrines of seducing demons, originated and taught for the purpose of destroying, in the minds, hearts, and lives of the people, their acceptance of the Bible as the Inspired Word of God, and their belief in and practice of the Christian religion.

Let those who profess to be Christians, and who, at the same time, profess to accept and believe in the theories of Modern Astronomy, read the following:

Thomas Paine, in his *Age of Reason*, said:

"The two opposing beliefs [the Bible and Modern Astronomy] cannot be held together in the same mind; he who thinks he can believe both has thought very little of either."

Paine was a celebrated infidel, and he was perfectly right when he said that no man could believe in the Bible and believe in Modern Astronomy at the same time!

The Bible plainly teaches that the earth is a plane. Modern Astronomy teaches that the earth is a globe. Both cannot be true. One of the two positions must be false. Which will you, as a professing Christian, accept—the plain teaching of the Bible, the Inspired Word

of God, or the wild, harebrained speculations of infidel astronomers?

Under date of March 6, 1903, the editor of a paper called *The Clarion* wrote as follows:

"Why twist the self-evident fact that the Bible story of creation was the work of unscientific men of strong imagination, into far-fetched and unsatisfactory puzzles of symbol and allegory?"

The article from which this quotation is taken is entitled, "Science and Religion," and it is one of a series of articles having for its purpose the presentation of proof that the Bible story of Creation is an old wife's fable, and that the story of salvation is a myth.

The late R. A. Proctor, F. R. A. S., in his book, entitled *Our Place Among Infinities*, page 3, says:

"To speak in plain terms, so far as science is concerned, the idea of a Personal God is inconceivable, as are all the attributes which religion recognizes in such a being."

Samuel Laing, in his *Modern Science and Modern Thoughts*, page 278, says:

"It is as certain as two and two make four, that the world was not created in the manner described in Genesis; that the sun, moon, and stars are not lights placed in the firmament or solid crystal vault of Heaven, to give light upon the earth."

On page 251 he says:

"It is absolutely certain that portions of the Bible, and those important portions relative to the creation of the world and of man, are not true and therefore not inspired. It is certain that the sun, moon, stars, and earth were not created as the author of Genesis supposed them to have been created.

.....It is certain that no universal deluge ever took place since man existed."

In *The Clarion*, under the heading, "The Universe and its Creation," the following statement was made:

"The theory of the early Christian Church was that the earth was flat, like a plate, and the sky was a solid dome above it, like an inverted blue basin. The sun revolved round the earth to give light by day, the moon revolved round the earth to give light by night. The stars were auxiliary lights, and had all been specially, and at the same time created for the good of man. God created the sun, moon, and stars, and the earth, in six days. He created them by word, and He created them out of nothing (?) Today *our* ideas are very different. Hardly any educated man or woman in the world believes that the world is flat, or that the sun revolves round the earth, or that what we call the sky is a solid substance like a domed ceiling (?)."

—*The Clarion*, April 17, 1903, by Robert Blatchford.

Later, Mr. Blatchford resumed his attacks on the Inspiration and Divine Origin of the Bible by saying:

"Last week I gave a brief and imperfect sketch of the known universe.... This week I shall try to compare the modern idea of the universe with the idea given in the Bible, and to show that the ancient Jewish God, Jehovah, was utterly incapable of conceiving a scheme of creation so magnificent as that which science has revealed. For it is to human labor and to human science, and not to Divine inspiration, that we are indebted for the expansion and elevation of our ideas of the universe and its Creator. The universe as revealed to us by man, contains 20 millions of living, moving, radiant suns, with all their wonderful revolving planets, comets, meteorites, and nebulae. The universe, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, consists of a flat, immovable earth, covered by a solid dome of sky, in which are set a small sun and moon, and a sprinkling of stars, all of which were created to give light to man. The difference between the human and the inspired conceptions of the universe is too glaring to need any comment of mine. The universe of the Bible bears about the same relation to the universe of fact as a candle to the sun. The scientific conception, moreover, is true, whilst the Bible conception is false."

April 24, 1923.

In *Lucifer*, of December 23rd, E. M. 287 (i. e. 1887 A. D.) the following occurs:

"We date from the first of January, 1601. This era is called the Era of Man (E. M.) to distinguish it from the theological epoch that preceded it. In that epoch the earth was supposed to be flat, the sun was its attendant light revolving about it. Above was Heaven, where God ruled supreme over all potentates and powers, below was the kingdom of the Devil, hell. So taught the Bible. Then came the NEW ASTRONOMY. It demonstrated that the earth is a globe revolving about the sun; that the stars are worlds and suns; that there is no 'up' and 'down' in space; vanished the old heaven; vanished the old hell; the earth became the home of man. And when the modern cosmogony came, the Bible and the Church as infallible oracles had to go, for they had taught that regarding the universe which was now shown to be untrue in every particular."

Robert G. Ingersoll, perhaps the greatest infidel of his time, in his controversy with Dr. Talmage, said:

"If it shall turn out that Joshua was superior to La Place, that Moses knew more about geology than Humboldt, that Job as a scientist was superior to Kepler, that Isaiah knew more than Copernicus, then I will admit that infidelity must be speechless for ever."

Let those who profess to believe that the Bible is the Inspired Word of God, those who profess to be Christians, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, read and reread the following from Robert G. Ingersoll:

"The next day He made the sun and moon—the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night. Do you think the man who wrote that knew anything about the size of the sun? I think he thought it was about three feet in diameter, because I find in some book that the sun was stopped a whole day to give a general named Joshua time to kill a few more Amalekites; and the moon was stopped also. At another time, we read, the sun was turned ten degrees backward to convince Hezekiah that he was not going to die of a boil. The man who wrote that thought the sun was two or three feet in diameter, and could be stopped and pulled around like the sun and moon in a theater. I do not believe he knew the motion of the earth. I do not believe he knew that it was turning on its axis at the rate of one thousand miles an hour.

"The writer then gives us the history of astronomy, and he gives it to us in five words: 'He made the stars also.' He came very near forgetting the stars. Do you believe that the man who wrote that knew that there are stars as much larger than this earth as the earth is larger than the apple which Adam and Eve are said to have eaten? Do you believe that he knew this world is but a speck in the shining, glittering universe of existence? I would gather from that that He made the stars after He got the world done.

"The telescope, in reading the infinite leaves of the Heaven, has ascertained that light travels at the rate of 192,000 miles per second, and it would require millions of years to come from some of the stars to the earth. Yet the beams of those stars mingle in our atmosphere so that if those distant orbs were fashioned when this world began we must have been whirling in space, not six thousand, but many millions of years. Do you believe the man who wrote that as a history of astronomy really knew that this world was but a speck compared with millions of sparkling orbs? I do not.

"Everybody talks about the Bible, and nobody reads it. That is the reason it is so generally believed."

—Quoted from Ingersoll's *Forty-four Lectures Complete*.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

[Professed Christians who reject the Bible and accept the wild, idiotic theories of Modern Astronomy must feel very proud of Ingersoll as a boon companion! This infidel astronomy is taught in all the schools and championed by all of the churches, and when a man arises who is brave enough to stand up boldly and uncompromisingly for the Word of God and condemn the infidel theories of Modern Astronomy, then he is laughed at by

these so-called Christians, and all kinds of silly stuff is written and printed in the papers. The fact of the matter is that very few, if any, of these writers have ever given the subject one moment's serious consideration, either from a Biblical standpoint or from a scientific standpoint.]

The text books on geography instill into all the children the infidel theory that the earth is a globe, that it rotates on its axis and revolves in its orbit; in other words, that it has some very terrible motions.

The wonderful (?) proofs (??) submitted in the text books on geography that the earth is a globe are as follows:

The disappearance of ships at sea.

They say ships disappear over, beyond, and behind the hill of water. This is simply a silly assertion, but it is generally accepted without a moment's examination and without any questions. The disappearance of ships at sea is fully explained by the simple law of perspective of vision.

Another brilliant (?) reason (??) given in the text books on geography is that you can sail around the earth; therefore, it must be a globe.

You can sail around an island! You can walk around a building! But the island is not a globe; neither is the building a globe.

These learned (?) infidel astronomers talk about their "accurate (?) mathematics"! The following is a good illustration of their accurate (?) mathematics:

Copernicus, according to accurate (?) mathematics, computed the sun's distance to be about 3,000,000 miles. Kepler, a very famous astronomer, by the same accurate (?) mathematics computed the distance to be 13,000,000 miles—just a little difference of 10,000,000 miles; that is all! Next in order we have the famous mathematician, Sir Isaac Newton, who, by means of accurate (?) mathematics, computed the sun's distance to be 28,000,000 miles; and later on this famous mathematician, by the same kind of accurate (?) mathematics, computed the distance to be 54,000,000 miles—just a little difference of 26,000,000 miles! Of course, 10,000,000 miles or 26,000,000 miles signify little or nothing to these wild, fanatical dreamers! Following Sir Isaac Newton came Benjamin Martin in the year 1754, and by the same accurate (?) mathematics he computed the sun's distance to be between 81 and 82,000,000 miles from the earth. Now, we have already gone from 3,000,000 miles, computed by Copernicus by accurate (?) mathematics, mind you, up to 82,000,000 miles computed by accurate (?) mathematics by Benjamin Martin. Here we have the little difference of 79,000,000 miles! And, as the preacher says, "lastly," the celebrated mathematician, Encke, in 1869, computed by accurate (?) mathematics the

sun's distance to be 95,274,000 miles. And now, to follow the preacher and have one more "lastly," then came a man by the name of Meyer, and he computed, by accurate (?) mathematics, the sun's distance from the earth to be 104,000,000 miles. Copernicus, by accurate (?) mathematics, computed the distance to be 3,000,000 miles; Meyer by accurate (?) mathematics, computed the sun's distance from the earth to be 104,000,000 miles, just a little insignificant difference of 101,000,000 miles!

Now, when these infidel astronomers, with an assumed air of great superiority, look down upon me because I accept the Bible as the Inspired Word of God, and accept its teachings on Astronomy and reject their infidel theories, I always feel like saying, "You poor, ignorant, conceited fools! How God, Who sits in the Heavens, must laugh at your folly!"

It was the sainted John Wesley who wrote in his journal:

"I doubt whether we can with certainty know either the distance or the magnitude of any star in the firmament, else why do astronomers so immensely differ even with regard to the distance of the sun from the earth, some affirming it to be only three and others ninety millions of miles?"

—*Extracts*, Third Edition, page 392.

These astronomical fellows make the assertion that astronomy is an "exact science," and they make the further claim that the sun's distance is the measuring rod for their utterly absurd distances for the stars!

Mr. R. A. Proctor says in his work; *The Sun*, page 7:

"The determination of the sun's distance is not only an important problem of general astronomy, but it may be regarded as the sure foundation of all our researches."

Now, when the reader knows that by accurate (?) mathematics the sun's distance has been computed all the way from 3,000,000 miles to 104,000,000 miles, he can see about how much dependence he can put on anything else that these so-called astronomers write or say. If the sun's distance is as Proctor says, the very foundation of all our researches, then how utterly unreliable must all these researches, together with the conclusions derived therefrom, be!

When you ask these infidel astronomers for some proofs of the globular theory, they at once turn their eyes to the stars—which is just about as sensible as when you ask a carpenter to give you the shape of a room and he fixes his eyes upon the chandelier and the electric lights!

The poor old world is now beginning to reap the harvest from the seeds which have been sown—the seeds of Modern Astronomy, Evolution, and Higher Criticism. Instead of the churches standing uncompromisingly by the Word of God, they have swallowed all of the demon-inspired theories, and today they are reaping the harvest.

We have received a very large number of letters, but it is impossible for us to read them, and we most certainly have no time to answer them. These letters betray an appalling ignorance of the whole subject. The foolish assertion is made in many of them that if the earth were a plane you could not start at a point, travel due east, and come back to the point of departure. For the information of all such, I suggest the following:

Take a silver dollar, to represent the stationary, plane earth. The center of the dollar is the North Center. Draw a line from the edge of the dollar to the North Center. As you go toward the Center you are traveling north; as you go from the Center to the edge, you are traveling south. East and west are simply points at right angles to north and south. Start at a given point and travel due east, and you will be compelled to come back to the point of departure.

Professor R. A. Gregory, F. R. A. S., says:

"Circumnavigation in an easterly or westerly direction does not prove the earth to be globular. It has been pointed out that circumnavigation would be possible on a flat surface, with the North Magnetic Pole at its center."

—*Elementary Physiography*, page 110, R. A. Gregory, F. R. A. S.

Others ask the question: "How can you account for day and night if the earth is a plane?"

Professor J. Norman Lockyer said,

"The appearance of the rising and the setting of the sun may be due either to our earth being at rest and the sun and the stars traveling around it, or the earth itself turning around while the sun and stars are at rest."

The French astronomer, La Place, said:

"The appearances (of the motions of the heavenly bodies) are the same in the hypothesis of the earth at rest and in that of its motion round the sun."

—*The System of the World*, Volume 1, Page 234.

The only consistent thing for professed Christians to do is either to reject the Bible and join the ranks of infidel astronomers, or reject the theories of infidel astronomers and take the Bible, and stand by it at all times and under all circumstances.

One of the principal supports (if not the principal support) of blatant modern infidelity is the modern astronomical theory which contradicts the Bible.

Those who profess to believe the Bible to be the Inspired Word of God, who profess to be Christians, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and who have accepted the theories of infidel astronomers, should read, reread, and study the following passages of Scripture:

Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven...

Genesis 1:14-18

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

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.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness...

Genesis 1:20

And let fowl fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

Psalms 19:1

... The firmament sheweth His handywork.

Psalms 150:1

... Praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Ezekiel 1:22

The likeness of a firmament. . . like the color of the terrible crystal [or ice, Margin, R. V.], stretched forth over their heads above.

Ezekiel 1:23

And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other....

Ezekiel 1:25

And there was a voice above the firmament that was over their heads....

Ezekiel 1:26

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne....

Daniel 12:3

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

You will note the use of the word "FIRMAMENT" in all of the above passages; and in not one of them is it described as unlimited space, but as a firm, solid structure resting upon foundations.

Genesis 7:11

....The windows [or, floodgates, Margin] of heaven were opened.

This is the language of Inspiration, and is a plain statement to the effect that the waters from above the firmament poured forth at the time of the flood and covered the whole earth.

Psalms 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God....

Job 37:18 (R. V.)

Canst thou with Him spread out the sky, which is strong as the molten mirror?

Amos 9:6 (R. V.)

He that buildeth His Chambers in the heavens....

Isaiah 42:5 (R. V.)

....He that created the heavens, and stretched them forth....

Isaiah 40:22 (R. V.)

....That stretched out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.

Proverbs 8:27, 28 (R. V.)

When He established the heavens, I was there: when He set a circle upon the face of the deep,

When He made firm the skies above....

The principal word in these verses is the word "HEAVEN."

Job 22:14 (Margin, R. V.)

....He walketh on the vault of heaven....

Isaiah 40:22 (R. V.)

....He that sitteth upon the circle [chug or vault] of the earth....

Amos 9:6 (R. V.)

....And hath founded His vault upon the earth....

Your special attention is called to Isaiah 40:22—"He that sitteth upon the circle [chug, or vault] of the earth."

We were agreeably surprised to note, in the *Pulpit Commentary*, the following with reference to this verse—Verse 22 of Isaiah the Fortieth Chapter:

"It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth;' rather, 'above the vault of the earth; above the vault of sky,' which seems to arch over the earth."

The only exception that we take to this language is the use of the word "seems" in the expression, "above the vault of sky, which seems to arch over the earth." The plain, simple fact is that the vault of sky *does* arch over the earth. That is the plain teaching of the Word of God.

"That stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain."

The *Pulpit Commentary* continues by saying:

"So in Psalm 104:2, only that here the 'curtain' is represented as one of thin gauze.

"The idea is common to Isaiah, with Job 9:8, Jeremiah 10:12, 51:15, and Zechariah 12:1, and is a favorite one in these later chapters—42:5, 44:24, 45:12, and 51:13. The writer continues: 'As a tent to dwell in.' See Psalm 19:4, where God is said to have set in the Heavens a tabernacle—'ohel,' the word used here—'for the sun.'"

Job 26:10 (R. V.)

He hath described a boundary upon the face of the waters, unto the confines of light and darkness.

Albert Smith, of England, who has written quite extensively on Bible Astronomy, in commenting on this verse, very briefly says, descriptive of the outer circumference of the world with its impassible ice barriers, beyond which the light of the sun never reaches:

"The firmament is a solid structure resting upon foundations."

II Samuel 22:8

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook,
because He was wroth.

Job 26:11 (R. V.)

The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at His rebuke.

In commenting on these two passages of Scripture, Mr. Smith very truthfully writes:

"The firmament is a lofty dome, or vault of marvelous workmanship, 'stretched out' over the plane earth and sea, enclosing them 'as a tent to dwell in.'"

We have presented several quotations from the advocates of the Copernican, or Newtonian system of Astronomy, showing that they reject the Bible as the Inspired Word of God. We have quoted from Tom Paine, from Robert Blatchford, of England, and from Robert G. Ingersoll. Preceding these quotations, we asserted that the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion accepts the Bible as the Inspired Word of God, that we believe that the Bible in the original languages was verbally inspired—not only the thoughts, but also the words. We stated, further that we believe all that the Bible has to say regarding the earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars, and that we do not propose to surrender one iota of ground to infidel astronomers.

Modern Astronomy, Evolution, and Higher Criticism are a trinity of evils; in other words, they are triplets, and the Devil is their father.

The Devil's intention in originating and foisting these false systems—Modern Astronomy, Evolution, and Higher Criticism—upon the world was to bring about the rejection of the Bible as the Inspired Word of God to destroy the faith of the people in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to ridicule and make absurd the whole scheme of redemption.

We propose to push this battle to the limit, and to show plainly to all professed Christians that they cannot believe the Bible to be the Inspired Word of God and believe in the infidel theories of Modern Astronomy. They either must accept the Bible and reject Modern Astronomy, or accept Modern Astronomy and reject the Bible. There is absolutely no middle ground.

I am compelled here to admit that these so-called scientists, who reject the Bible as the Inspired Word of God and accept and teach the infidel theories of Modern Astronomy, are consistent; and I am compelled, further, to admit that professing Christians who have accepted the infidel theories of Modern Astronomy and, at the same time, profess to believe the Bible to be the Inspired Word of God, are inconsistent.

Who that has given this subject any real, serious consideration can believe that the earth is a whirling globe? To accept this theory and believe in it is to reject the Bible as the Inspired Word of God, and to do violence to all of our God-given senses; and we assert

here that not a single fact in nature can be found to support this theory.

Although not strictly belonging in this article, yet we will quote a number of statements here, and the readers can be thinking about them, as they will be used in some future article:

"As an engineer of many years' standing, I say that this absurd allowance (the curvature of the earth) is only permitted in school books. No engineer would dream of allowing anything of the kind. Nothing of the sort is allowed. We no more think of allowing 600 feet for a line of 30 miles of railway or canal than of wasting our time trying to square the circle!"

—W. Winckler, M. I. C. E., *Earth Review*, October, 1893.

"In leveling, I work from ordnance marks or canal levels to get the height above sea level; not the least allowance being made for curvature."

—T. Westwood, Surveyor, *Earth Review*, January, 1896.

"It is not the practice, in laying out public works, to make allowance for curvature of the earth."

—Manchester Ship-Canal Co.

Engineer's Office, *Earth Review*, October, 1893.

"Suez Canal—about 100 miles level, no allowance for curvature of the earth; datum line horizontal, level.

"Kiel Canal—about 61 miles level, no allowance for curvature of the earth, datum line horizontal, level.

"Panama Canal—about 50 miles level, no allowance for curvature of the earth; datum line horizontal, level.

"Mean sea levels at Port Said in the Mediterranean and Suez in Red Sea are identical, and the same exists in the levels of the Atlantic and the Pacific on the opposite coast of the Isthmus of Panama. This is in favor of a uniform level all the world over."

—*Encyclopedia Britannica*.

"It is well known that in the Argentine Republic and other parts of South America there are railways hundreds of miles long without curve or gradient."

—Thomas Winship.

We will now proceed with further quotations:

"The Copernican system is that which represents the sun to be at rest in the center of the Universe, the earth and planets to move round it as a center.... Many who reverence the name of Copernicus in connection with this system would be surprised to find how MUCH OF ERROR, UNSOUND REASONING, and HAPPY CONJECTURES combined to secure for him in all times the association of the system with his name."

—*Chambers' Encyclopedia*, New Ed., Vol. 3, page 462 (1889).

One of the principal works (if not the principal work) of Copernicus is entitled, *De Revolutionibus Orbium*; in fact, it is claimed by some that it was this work which made him famous. It was published not long before his departure, and it has a preface without a signature—a preface reasonably supposed to have been written either by himself or one of his assistants. In it, the following confession is made:

"It is not necessary that hypotheses should be true or even probable, it is sufficient that they lead to results of calculation which agree with calculation..... Neither let any one, so far as hypotheses are concerned, expect *anything* certain from Astronomy, since that science can afford nothing of the kind; lest, in case he should adopt for truth things feigned for another purpose, he should leave science more foolish than he came.... The hypotheses of terrestrial MOTION was NOTHING BUT AN HYPOTHESIS, valuable only so far as it explained phenomena, and not considered with reference to absolute truth or falsehood."

Every well-informed person knows that Copernicus took the position that the sun was the center of the universe, and was stationary.

If any one of these advocates of the Copernican system of astronomy, knows of any proof that he ever presented, I shall esteem it a great favor if he will let me have it!

Doubtless many of my readers have heard of a man by the name of Herschel, another one of these wise (?) astronomers. Let it be kept in mind that Copernicus claimed that the sun was the center of the universe, and was stationary. Now, Mr. Herschel claimed that the "solar system as a whole was moving towards a point in the celestial sphere not far from the star Lambda Hercules."—*Story of the Stars*, page 87, G. F. Chambers, F. R. A. S.

It is asserted by these advocates of the Copernican system of astronomy that it is an EXACT SCIENCE—and yet these two great men, Copernicus and Herschel, contradict each other, Copernicus saying that Herschel is a liar and Herschel saying that Copernicus is a liar—and Voliva agrees that they are both right!

Now, there are other advocates of this infidel system of astronomy who believe that the sun is moving, but they are at loggerheads with each other as to where it is going. The fact of the matter is that the theories of all these men are just so much silly, idiotic

speculation, and that they know nothing about it, because they have rejected the revelation of God and have refused to accept the statements of Him—God the Son—Who was the Divine Agent in creation.

In *Reynolds' Newspaper*, of August 14th, 1892, under the heading of "Democratic World," the following appeared:

"We are trembling on the eve of a discovery which may revolutionize the whole thought of the world. The almost universal opinion of scientific men is that the Planet Mars is inhabited by beings, like or superior to ourselves. Already they have discovered great canals cut on the surface in geometrical form, which can only be the work of reasoning creatures. They have seen its snowfields, and it only requires a telescope a little stronger than those already in existence to reveal the mystery as to whether sentient beings exist on that planet. IF it be found that this is the case, THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN RELIGION WILL CRUMBLE TO PIECES. THE STORY OF THE CREATION HAS ALREADY BECOME AN OLD WIFE'S TALE. HELL IS NEVER MENTIONED IN ANY WELL-INFORMED SOCIETY OF CLERGYMEN; the devil has become a myth. IF Mars is inhabited, the irresistible deduction will be that all the other planets are inhabited. This will put an end to the fable prompted by the vanity of humanity that the Son of God came on earth and suffered for creatures WHO ARE THE LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF MONKEYS. It is not to be supposed that the Hebrew carpenter, Jesus, went about as a kind of theosophical missionary to all the planets in the solar system, reincarnate, and suffering for the sins of various pigmies or giants, as the case may be, who may dwell there. The astronomers would do well to make haste to reveal to us the magnificent secret which the world impatiently awaits."

Professor W. B. Carpenter, in his paper in the *Modern Review* for October, 1880, says:

"While, however, the idea of government by a God IS NOW EXCLUDED BY GENERAL CONSENT FROM THE DOMAIN OF SCIENCE, the notion of government by law has taken its place, not only in popular thought, but in the minds of many who claim the right to lead it; and it is the validity of this notion which I have now to call in question.... PHILOSOPHY FINDING NO GOD IN NATURE NOR SEEING THE WANT OF ANY.

"The advanced philosophy of the present time goes still further, asserting that THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A GOD IN NATURE."

S. Laing, in his *Modern Science and Modern Thought*, says:

"Attempts to harmonize the Gospels and prove the inspiration of writings which contain manifest errors and contradictions, have gone the way of Buckland's proof of a universal deluge, and of Hugh Miller's attempt to reconcile Noah's Ark and the

Genesis account of creation WITH THE FACTS OF GEOLOGY AND ASTRONOMY."

In Draper's *Religion and Science*, on pages 178 and 179, we find the following:

"Especially must we reject the view that the Scriptures reveal to us of the constitution of the world, that the earth is a flat surface, supported on pillars: that the sky is a firmament—the floor of heaven. On the contrary, we must believe that the universe is infinite, and that it is filled with self-luminous and opaque worlds, many of them inhabited."

The following quotations from Mr. Laing should be eye-openers to professing Christians, who imagine that they can believe both the Bible and Modern Astronomy:

"Now it is absolutely certain that portions of the Bible, and these important portions relating to the creation of the world and of men, are not true and therefore not inspired. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE SUN, MOON, STARS AND EARTH WERE NOT CREATED AS THE AUTHOR OF GENESIS SUPPOSED THEM TO HAVE BEEN CREATED....IT IS CERTAIN THAT NO UNIVERSAL DELUGE EVER TOOK PLACE SINCE MAN EXISTED.

"It is as certain as that two and two make four THAT THE WORLD WAS NOT CREATED IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN GENESIS; THAT THE SUN, MOON AND STARS ARE NOT LIGHTS PLACED IN THE FIRMAMENT OR SOLID CRYSTAL VAULT OF HEAVEN, TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH.

"The conclusions of science are irresistible, and old forms of faith, however venerable and however endeared by a thousand associations, have no more chance in a collision with science than George Stephenson's cow had, if it stood on the rails and tried to stop the progress of a locomotive."

The Rev. C. F. Aked, formerly of England, later Pastor of the John D. Rockefeller Baptist Church in New York, and later located in San Francisco, is reported, in the *Christian World Pulpit* of June 14, 1893, to have said at Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool, that—

"No student of science is able to believe that any such Flood as that recorded in the early chapters of Genesis ever took place in the history of the human race—the Flood story IS A MYTH, not history."

From the very day that Voliva made his offer of five thousand dollars for any proof that the earth is a sphere, or that it has any axial or orbital motions, or any of the terrible motions attributed to it by the adherents of the Copernican system of astronomy, he has been called a lunatic, a flat-head, and a man who does no more thinking than a chimpanzee; a poor fool to be pitied, and various other epithets.

The fact of the matter is that the advocates of the infidel theories of Modern Astronomy have no other arguments except the one known in logic as the "*argumentum ad hominem*," in other words, "Jump on to the man who dares to differ from us, and call him everything in the catalog!" They think this will divert the attention of those whom they have long deceived by their utterly false system of astronomy, from Voliva's arguments, and especially from the plain, Inspired Word of God.

Serious Thinking Necessary

It is surprising how few know anything as to the true meaning of the following words:

Earth

Firmament

East

West

and of numerous other words that are in daily use.

The following passages of Scripture should be read and prayerfully studied and considered:

And God called the dry land Earth.....—Genesis 1:10.

Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth.—Psalm 102: 25 and Hebrews 1:10.

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?....

Whereupon are the foundations [Hebrew, sockets, Margin] thereof fastened? or Who laid the corner stone thereof?—Job 38: 4-6; see also Proverbs 8:29.

....The pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and He hath set the world upon them.—I Samuel 2:8.

....The world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.—Psalm 93:1.

He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.—Psalm 24:2.

The earth stands "out of the water and in the water" (II Peter 3:5).

Let it be kept constantly in mind that our position is that you cannot believe the Bible and Modern Astronomy at the same time. You must accept one and reject the other, for you cannot accept both.

All persons who profess to be Christians, to believe in the Inspired Word of God, to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, should be compelled to come out in the open and reject

the infidel theories of Modern Astronomy, and to take their stand uncompromisingly for the Word of God.

When we were children we were taught (and all the children in the schools today are being taught the same thing) that the earth is round like an orange, that it is a whirling globe of land and water, that it is only a tiny speck in the universe, that it is only one of many worlds.

Are these theories of Modern Astronomy supported by any facts?

We say emphatically that they are *not!* that they are a contradiction of the plain Word of God and that their advocacy has done incalculable harm!

It is high time that some voice be used of God to awaken the sleeping church to the awful dangers to themselves and their children, not only from evolution and higher criticism, but from Modern Astronomy, which well deserves to be classed as the principal evil of this trinity of evils.

The Sun

And God made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the Heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness.—Genesis 1:16-18, R. V.

The sun and the moon are referred to as "the two great lights." The sun is called "the greater light," the full statement in Genesis 1:16 begins:

....The greater light [that is, the sun] to rule the day....

The moon is referred to as "the lesser light," and is said "to rule the night."

According to the Inspired Word of God, there are two great lights; namely, the sun and the moon. The sun is the greater of the two. The sun is to rule the day; the moon is to rule the night.

According to the Inspired Word of God, the moon has a light of its own, and the assertion of modern astronomers that the moon shines with light reflected from the sun is without any support whatever.

In the Nineteenth Psalm we have the following plain statements:

In them [the heavens] hath He set a tabernacle [a tent] for the sun,

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run his course.

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it.—Verses 4, 5, 6, R. V.

The teaching of this portion of God's Inspired Word is that the sun moves over and around the earth, which is fixed and has no motions whatever.

To Him that spread forth the earth above the waters;....

To Him that made great lights....

The sun to rule by day....

The moon and the stars to rule by night....—Psalm 136, parts of Verses 6, 7, 8, 9, R. V.

God's Word teaches that the sun, the moon, and the stars were made for the earth, and that in comparison with the earth they are very small, and they are not very far away. In fact, they circle in the firmament, or dome, of Heaven.

Now let us examine the teachings of Modern Astronomy.

The Sun's Diameter

"The diameter of the orb of day....is 865,000 miles."

—From the *Story of the Heavens*, page 26, by Sir Robert Ball.

"The sun's diameter is 882,000 miles."—R. Russel.

"The diameter of the sun is no less than 850,000 miles."

—A. Giberne.

"The true diameter of the sun is 866,000 miles."

—From the *Story of the Solar System*, by G. F. Chambers.

These wise (?) astronomers, therefore,—as you will see from an examination of the above figures—differ 32,000 miles as to the sun's diameter.

Let the reader study carefully the following facts—they *are* facts, not guesswork:

The sun never goes farther north than the tropic of Cancer, and never goes farther south than the tropic of Capricorn. It is generally agreed that *the distance between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn is less than 3,000 miles, and yet the sun, which these wise (?) astronomers say has a diameter of 866,000 miles, moves between the two tropics, and never goes*

north of the one nor south of the other. How could this be possible, if the sun has any such diameter as these astronomers say that it has?

Another fact is that the sun, while moving between the two tropics—a space less than 3,000 miles—is not large enough to light or to heat the entire area at any one time. When the sun reaches the tropic of Cancer, then we have in the United States our longest day and our shortest night—June 21; and this date is known as the summer solstice in the north. At the same time, on June 21 in Australia they have their shortest day and longest night, and it is the winter solstice. Then, on December 21, we have our shortest day and longest night, and the date is known as the winter solstice; while in Australia they have the longest day and the shortest night, and it is known as the summer solstice. When the sun is approaching the tropic of Capricorn, we then have our coldest weather, because the sun is too far away from us to heat the portion of the earth where we live, or to light it, except for a short time.

If this earth is the size of a navy bean and the sun is one million or more times as large as the earth, how does it happen that the little navy bean of an earth has so much night and so much cold weather? The wise (?) astronomers, of course, will answer this question by saying that the sun's great distance from the earth explains it. This is all "bunk."

As to the distance of the sun from the earth according to these wise (?) astronomers, we again call your attention to the wide variance in the figures already given in this article.

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