

The Conditions Of Our Earthly Existence

Isaiah 45:18

Science in light of scripture series

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Introduction and Review

Science and Scripture overlap a variety of subjects. We began last Easter by examining how the information in DNA determines not only our present physical appearance but may also be used by God to fashion the same appearance of our future resurrected bodies. Then we examined light, water, and the heavens. Our main goal of this series is to develop a more complete understanding of several different overlapping subjects by considering what science and Scripture say about them. Some of these subjects are obviously the very same thing in science and in the Scriptures such as physical light, physical water, and the physical stars while others must be inferred such as metaphors. For example, the Bible speaks of the eye sensing physical light¹ as well as the metaphor where light is the truth that righteously guides our life². Since this metaphor from Psalm 119 compares light to Scripture - *“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path”* - there must be at least one property of light that relates to “God’s word”. If not, then why was light used instead of something else? The point is that we can learn even from metaphors. Another metaphor describes God as light³. Scripture includes some tough questions like when God asks Job ¹⁹“Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,”⁴.

A reasonable question is “How can science and scripture complement one another?”. After all the reasons why someone would believe what science says is very different from the reasons why someone would believe what Scripture says. This is the difference: scientific conclusions can be verified, in principle, by the scientific method whereas Scriptural conclusions must be believed by faith⁵. Those who believe that the Bible is true will appreciate both as complementary to a correct and complete understanding. Sir Francis Bacon, the founder of the scientific method wrote *“It is a correct position that “true knowledge is knowledge by causes”... “The cause and root of nearly all evils in the sciences is this—that while we falsely admire and extol the powers of the human mind we neglect to seek for its true helps”... “God has, in fact, written two books, not just one. Of course, we are all familiar with the first book he wrote, namely Scripture. But he has written a second book called creation.”*⁶

We will see over and over again that Scripture gives us a more complete understanding of overlapping subjects than what science alone is able to discover. Conflict is always precipitated when man’s conjecture about something is different from the eyewitness testimony of God, the perfect witness of the origin of everything. Paul was right when he described the Spiritual man

¹ Ecclesiastes 11:7

² Psalm 119:105 and 129-130

³ 1John 1:5

⁴ Job 38:19

⁵ HEB 11:3

⁶ *The New Organon, or True Directions concerning the interpretation of Nature* by Francis Bacon [1620], p.121

as someone who appraises all things.⁷ The natural man thinks the things of God are foolishness and he will not seriously consider foolish thoughts, so this limits what the natural man's is willing to accept.. Science has a long history of experimental evidence on how light behaves in the present. In fact, scientific laws result from a long history of consistent experimental results. But, by definition, miracles are exceptions to the laws of nature, and are also not experimentally repeatable so science rejects the reality of miracles. Although we are unable to answer how miracles occur, because God's ways are higher than our ways, we usually know why a miracle happened.

For example Genesis 1 tells us a very good reason **why** God creating light on the first day of creation before creating the sun and stars on the fourth day. Cause and effect reasoning will help us answer this question. Without light and darkness morning and evening would have no meaning since both are caused by changes in light and darkness observed at a place as the earth's rotation carries us from day into night (from the half of the earth illuminated by light into the other half of darkness where light does not shine). Proverbs 8:27 refers to this circular boundary between day and night as "... *When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep*". Another verse alluding to the circle of illumination is Job 26:10 "*He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters at the boundary of light and darkness.*". *Genesis 1:2 describes the earth as the deep and also as the waters just before* Genesis 1:3 states "*Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.* This strongly suggests that the context of both Proverbs 8:27 and Job 26:10 is the same context as the creation narrative of Genesis 1:3. Time is always measured by a change in something. In fact, when the hands of our clock stop moving we always assume that the clock is broken; we never conclude that time has stopped. So light and darkness was essential to understand **before** the first time "*evening and morning, the first day*" could be used since it is a necessary part of the clock used to define the days of creation. Even though the earth turns, we do not feel like we are speeding at about 700 miles/ hour like we do feel making a turn in our car.. So the change of light and darkness is essential to give us something consistently repeatable as well as observable to use the rotation of earth as a clock. He used light and darkness like the hands of the first clock to define and measure each day of creation. Once again this is possible by using the law of cause and effect where complete knowledge is knowledge by causes. In short, everything with a beginning or has been changed must have been caused to do so.

Today we will look at the conditions necessary for us to live on the earth. From a purely scientific perspective man has discovered some physical and chemical conditions essential for life to exist. Science has learned a lot about the conditions needed to stay alive outside the earth. For example, why would an astronaut never consider taking a space walk without wearing their space suit? Science has identified some physical and chemical conditions that are required for life to exist here, begging the question "How did those conditions all happen to be here right now?".

As for Scripture, we will infer these same conditions from this passage

*For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, **but formed it to be inhabited**),
"I am the LORD, and there is none else."⁸*

⁷ 1 Cor 2:14

⁸ Isaiah 45:18, NASB, **bold** emphasis mine

Scripture broadly refers to those same conditions in the portion of the verse above that says He "...formed it to be inhabited...". Furthermore, this verse states that God is the author or originator of those conditions. Science, on the other hand, has a completely different origination story of these conditions, as we will see today. When considering the scientific story we will assume the position that given the correct conditions, life will naturally develop. So evolution, for now, is not a condition but a "fact" in our scientific, not scriptural, reasoning:

Condition.

Why this condition is important

Are there any conditions in your list not essential to supporting life on earth? _____

Do all of these conditions need to exist at the same time? _____ Why or why not?

The Atheistic Argument

Science explains this concurrent collection of conditions to be the result of chance. Ask Paul's natural man why the earth – and perhaps other planets as well – have all the conditions to initiate and sustain life as we understand it and his answer will be similar to the following. By the way, NASA is encouraged to keep searching for life outside of earth by this very same line of reasoning – it is a probability argument.

If only a small percentage of stars are stable like our sun, and only a small percentage of those stars have planets orbiting them, and only a small percentage of those planets orbit at the correct distance and so on, there would be many places in our universe that have all the conditions necessary to support life solely because there are so many stars in our universe. The conditions astronomers consider in this gigantic multiplication exercise are:

- N*: total number of stars in the Milky Way Galaxy multiplied by the
- fraction of stars that are early G dwarfs and at least a few billion years old,
 - fraction of remaining stars in the Galactic Habitable Zone
 - fraction of remaining stars near the corotation circle and with low eccentricity galactic orbits
 - fraction of remaining stars outside spiral arms,
 - fraction of remaining stars with at least one terrestrial planet in the Circumstellar Habitable Zone,
 - average number of terrestrial planets in the CHZs of such systems,
 - fraction of remaining systems with no more than a few giant planets comparable in mass to Jupiter in large, circular orbits

- fraction of remaining systems with terrestrial planets in CHZ with low eccentricities and outside dangerous spin-orbit and giant planet resonances
- fraction of remaining planets near enough inner edge of CHZ to allow high oxygen and low carbon dioxide concentrations in their atmospheres
- fraction of remaining planets in the right mass range
- fraction of remaining planets with proper concentration of sulfur in their cores
- *fraction of remaining planets with a large moon and the right planetary rotation period to avoid chaotic variations in its obliquity
- fraction of remaining planets with right amount of water in crust
- fraction of remaining planets with steady plate tectonic cycling
- fraction of remaining planets where life appears
- fraction of remaining planets with critically low number of large impacts
- fraction of remaining planets exposed to critically low number of transient radiation events
- fraction of remaining planets where complex life appears
- average lifetime of a technological civilization

Assuming a very gross average approximation of 1/10 for each condition listed above and 200,000,000,000 stars for N, .001 for the stabilizing effect of the Moon (*), the result of this gigantic multiplication problem is 0.01, or roughly not even 1 civilization as advanced as ours. In other words, there would be 1 civilization like ours in 100 galaxies.⁹

Not very encouraging if your hope is to find another civilization like ours in our galaxy. So, to make this reasoning even more plausible, perhaps our universe is one of many universes so that we exist in a multiverse which better the odds considerably since more variety in larger numbers means a higher probability of finding what you are looking for. Without examining this concept spiritually, that sums up the cause for the fact that life exists on earth; we are very fortunate to have evolved on one of those planets that have by chance all the right conditions for evolution to spring into action. Finally, as proof of such thinking, since we are alive, there must be at least one place in our universe where all conditions exist for life, the Earth. A book and film by the same name – *The Privileged Planet* – has been highly criticized after the Smithsonian showed the film (see footnote 7). In part this quote expresses their concern...

“Why was the film so controversial? Tucker (2005) concluded that it was because the empirical evidence presented in the film leads to one conclusion—our planet is not only designed for life, but it is also designed with a “purpose,” namely to produce a species like humans. The idea that there is purpose behind the universe is what causes so many prominent scientists to go ballistic—and it is this idea that was unacceptable to the Smithsonian. Most leading scientists teach that life has no purpose or meaning, except that which we ourselves give to it. We are simply living on an ordinary planet, one of many that exist in our galaxy, which is one of many galaxies in the known universe.”¹⁰

⁹ <https://alta3b.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Gonzalez-Richards-The-Privileged-Planet-How-Our-Place-in-the-Cosmos-is-Designed-for-Discovery-2004.pdf> . Pages 338-342

¹⁰ <https://www.trueorigin.org/privplansmith01.php> Bold emphasis mine



What a great example to remind us that we are in a spiritual battle! Consider this passage from Romans: “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened¹¹.” Those who reject the Creator will most certainly not thank Him, for in their mind there is no reason to thank Him. They even give themselves credit for giving purpose and meaning to the universe they did not create!

The Biblical Argument

God’s purpose in creation is to make a place for habitation. The first chapter of Genesis describes God forming and separating during days 1-3 followed by filling the earth and heavens during days 3-6. So He began with something that was dark, formless, and void (Gen 1:2), then structured and finally filled it with creatures, plants, sun, moon, and stars. Another way to state this is that the Creator formed the formless and filled the empty.

So God who created the heavens and the earth from Gen 1:1 is the same God (Strong’s 430) who filled it with various living things including man from Gen 5:1

Genesis 1:1 (NASB1995)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 5:1 (NASB1995)

This the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

Now **God** in Isaiah 45:18 is also Strong’s 430 and notice that the Speaker uses two names for himself – God and Lord.

*For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the **God** who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the **LORD**, and there is none else.¹²*

Jumping down two verses to Isaiah 45:21-22, God is still speaking about His majesty and denouncing idols. Notice now how He links Lord with Savior

Isaiah 45:21-22 (NASB1995)

²¹“Declare and set forth *your case*; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God [Strong’s 430] besides Me, A righteous God [Strong’s

¹¹ Romans 1:21, NASB, 1995

¹² Isaiah 45:18, NASB, **bold** emphasis mine

410] **and a Savior**; There is none except Me. ²²“**Turn to Me and be saved**, all the ends of the earth; For I am God [Strong's 410], and there is no other.

Notice there are two Hebrew words for God: Strong's 410 which is the shortened form of Strong's 430, so God refers to the same person in these verses. The word “Lord” is Strong's 3068 everywhere. The word “Savior” is Strong's 3467. The Savior in verses 21 and 22 can be none other than the Lord Jesus, **the same Person speaking in verse 18 who also says that He is the Creator**. To summarize the conclusion, Jesus our Savior is also our Creator who made the Earth a hospitable place. That Jesus is the Creator is not surprising because this is also stated in the first chapters of John and Colossians and the “Unknown God” Paul described to the Athenians in Acts 17.

We now have a better understanding of how Jesus could perform miracles. His miracles provide proof that He is Lord over all nature since He is the Author of all creation.



Do you believe the atheistic story or the Scriptural story? Consider the source... the atheistic story is man's reasoning of what happened with no eyewitnesses, whereas the Scriptural story is backed up by an eyewitness – Jesus Christ. We will conclude with an answer to the question of why the Scriptural story is the most logical for Christians to believe.

In a court of law, a credible eyewitness has the highest weight

Reasoning from the Bible makes good sense because instead of relying on the words of men who weren't there and don't know everything, it relies on the words of God who was there and knows everything. Why is God the best eyewitness? Consider 6 reasons:

- **God claims to have been there when the earth was created and even before:**

“Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”¹³

*“The **eternal God** is a dwelling place, And underneath are the **everlasting arms**; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'¹⁴*

*“And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to **Him who lives forever and ever**, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship **Him who lives forever and ever**, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying”¹⁵*

“From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. “When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water. “Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;”¹⁶

¹³ Psalm 90:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴ Deut. 33:27, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵ Rev. 4:9-10, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁶ Pr 8:23-25, NAS, emphasis mine

Notice the various statements describing the eternity of God listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Verses On The Eternity Of God (NAS'95)			
Everlasting God	Ge 21:33	I am the first, I am also the last	Isa 48:12
as I live forever	De 32:40	One Who lives forever	Isa 57:15
eternal God	De 33:27	everlasting King	Jer 10:10
everlasting arms	De 33:27	from the beginning	Jer 17:12
From everlasting even to everlasting	1Ch 16:36	rule forever	La 5:19
The number of His years is unsearchable.	Job 36:26	everlasting kingdom	Da 4:3
abides forever	Ps 9:7	...Him who lives forever... ...everlasting dominion...	Da 4:34
From everlasting to everlasting	Ps 41:13	From the days of eternity	Mic 5:2
are on high forever	Ps 92:8	Are You not from everlasting	Hab 1:12
You are from everlasting.	Ps 93:2	His ways are everlasting.	Hab 3:6
abide forever	Ps 102:12	His eternal power	Ro 1:20
Your years will not come to an end.	Ps 102:27	eternal God	Ro 16:26
endures forever.	Ps 111:3	the King eternal	1Ti 1:17
everlasting kingdom	Ps 145:13	who alone possess immortality	1Ti 6:16
will reign forever	Ps 146:10	YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER	Heb 1:8
everlasting Rock	Isa 26:4	eternal Spirit	Heb 9:14
Everlasting God	Isa 40:28	who has been from the beginning	1Jo 2:13
from the beginning	Isa 41:4	dominion forever and ever	Re 1:6
from eternity I am He	Isa 43:13	Him who lives forever and ever	Re 4:9,10 and 10:6 and 15:7
I am the first and I am the last	Isa 44:6		



Is there any doubt in your mind that God is not limited by time? He existed when all events of the past occurred, and He will be present when all events of the future will occur. He didn't miss anything because of not being there at the same time as the event.

The following verse needs to be correctly interpreted in light of this truth about God:

*“For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.”*¹⁷

*“But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”*¹⁸

God sees all of time at once. **These verses do not redefine a day as a thousand years!** Notice the word “like” in both verses.

- But even though God has been around for all time, how do we know that He was always present at the right place, at the exact time, and had eyes to observe everything? Consider the following verses:

*“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”*¹⁹

*“The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.”*²⁰

*“You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.”*²¹

*“Naked is Sheol before Him, And Abaddon has no covering.”*²²

*“For He looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens.”*²³

*“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps. “There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”*²⁴

*“Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!”*²⁵

*“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built”*²⁶

*“But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn incense before Him?”*²⁷

¹⁷ Psalms 90:4, NAS’95, emphasis mine

¹⁸ 2 Peter 3:8, NAS’95, emphasis mine

¹⁹ Heb. 4:13, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²⁰ Psalm 33:13-15, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²¹ Psalm 90:8, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²² Job 26:6, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²³ Job 28:24, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²⁴ Job 34:21, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²⁵ Prov. 15:11, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²⁶ 1 Kings 8:27, NAS’95, emphasis mine

²⁷ 2 Chron. 2:6, NAS’95, emphasis mine

*"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."*²⁸

*"O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You."*²⁹

*"Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD."*³⁰

*"However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: 'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord, 'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? 'WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?'"*³¹

*"Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"*³²

*"It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him."*³³

*"so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."*³⁴

- But just because He was there in time and place, couldn't He distort or lie about what He observed? Maybe He didn't mean what He says in Scripture. Consider these verses:

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*³⁵

²⁸ 2 Chron. 16:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Zec 4:10

²⁹ Psalm 139:1-12, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³⁰ Jer. 23:23-24, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³¹ Acts 7:48-50, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³² Isa. 29:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³³ Dan. 2:22, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³⁴ Matt. 6:4, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Matt 6:18

³⁵ Num. 23:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

“Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.”³⁶

*“For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who **does not show partiality nor take a bribe.**”*³⁷

*“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; **A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.**”*³⁸

*“Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. **Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong.**”*³⁹

*“**Shall one who hates justice rule? And will you condemn the righteous mighty One.**”*⁴⁰

*“**Who shows no partiality to princes Nor regards the rich above the poor, For they all are the work of His hands?**”*⁴¹

*“Behold, God is mighty but **does not despise any; He is mighty in strength of understanding.**”*⁴²

*“The Almighty--we cannot find Him; He is exalted in power And **He will not do violence to justice and abundant righteousness.** Therefore men fear Him; **He does not regard any who are wise of heart.**”*⁴³

*“For **the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.**”*⁴⁴

*“**He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.**”*⁴⁵

*“**My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.**”*⁴⁶

*“To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and **there is no unrighteousness in Him.**”*⁴⁷

³⁶ 1 Sam. 15:29, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³⁷ Deut. 10:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³⁸ Deut. 32:4, NAS'95, emphasis mine

³⁹ Job 34:10, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴⁰ Job 34:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴¹ Job 34:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴² Job 36:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴³ Job 37:23-24, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴⁴ Psalms 11:7, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴⁵ Psalms 33:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴⁶ Psalms 89:34-35, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴⁷ Psalms 92:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

*“The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.”*⁴⁸

*“I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek Me in a waste place'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, Declaring things that are upright.”*⁴⁹

*“Thus says the LORD, "What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty?"*⁵⁰

*“Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”*⁵¹

*“For there is no partiality with God.”*⁵²

*“Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”*⁵³

*“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;”*⁵⁴

*“so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”*⁵⁵

- But even though He was there at the right place and at the right time, perhaps He didn't understand what was happening? My dog watches me make coffee every morning but does he understand what I am doing? Consider these verses:

*“He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.”*⁵⁶

*“There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.”*⁵⁷

*“But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*⁵⁸

⁴⁸ Psalms 145:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁴⁹ Isaiah 45:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵⁰ Jer. 2:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵¹ Acts 10:34-35, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵² Romans 2:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵³ James 1:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵⁴ 1 Pet. 1:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵⁵ Heb. 6:18, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵⁶ Psalms 147:4-5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵⁷ 1 Sam. 2:2-3, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁵⁸ 1 Sam. 16:7, NAS'95, emphasis mine

*“then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, **for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,**”*⁵⁹

*“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; **for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts.** If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”*⁶⁰

*“For **He knows false men, And He sees iniquity without investigating.**”*⁶¹

*“**With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding.**”*⁶²

*“**Can anyone teach God knowledge, In that He judges those on high?**”*⁶³

*“Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any; **He is mighty in strength of understanding.**”*⁶⁴

*“**With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?**”*⁶⁵

*“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. **His understanding is inscrutable.**”*⁶⁶

*“It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; **And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.**”*⁶⁷

*“**Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!**”*⁶⁸

*“in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and **knows all things.**”*⁶⁹

Finally, if God is not limited by time or location or ability to understand what He observes, and always tells the truth, wouldn't He be the **perfect witness** of any event in the past?

- But maybe the God of the Bible has changed. After all, the verses we have read were written 2,000 or more years ago. That's a long time to be aware of everything! Consider the following verses:

⁵⁹ 1 Kings 8:39, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Psalms 94:11 and Acts 1:24

⁶⁰ 1 Chron. 28:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also 2 Chron. 6:30

⁶¹ Job 11:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁶² Job 12:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Job 12:16

⁶³ Job 21:22, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁶⁴ Job 36:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁶⁵ Isa. 40:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁶⁶ Isa. 40:28, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁶⁷ Jer. 10:12, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Jer. 51:15

⁶⁸ Rom. 11:33, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁶⁹ 1 John 3:20, NAS'95, emphasis mine

“But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does.”⁷⁰

“The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.”⁷¹

“Lamedh. Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”⁷²

“I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.”⁷³

Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity.”⁷⁴

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.”⁷⁵

“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”⁷⁶

“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,”⁷⁷

“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”⁷⁸



Would you rather believe the words of God who was there and knows everything or the words of men who were not there and don't know everything? Is the integrity of God's word higher than the integrity of man's word? If the Bible and journal article deal with the same subject (such as the origin of the earth), which one will you choose to believe and why?

⁷⁰ Job 23:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷¹ Psalms 33:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷² Psalms 119:89, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷³ Ec. 3:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷⁴ Isaiah 31:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷⁵ Isaiah 40:28, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷⁶ Mal. 3:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷⁷ Heb. 6:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

⁷⁸ James 1:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

- The contrast between God’s understanding and man’s understanding is clearly demonstrated by the greatest science exam of all time. You can take the same Biblical science test that Job did. The test has only about fifty questions, but they are not true false or multiple choice. The professor giving the test is God who frequently asks student Job “where were you when I....” ...a most powerful question to consider.. The test begins with God speaking to Job.

*“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,
 “Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge?
 “Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!
 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,
 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it?
 “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,
 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”⁷⁹*

About halfway through, God gives Job a chance to give some answers. Here is how Job replied:

*Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.
 “Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more.”⁸⁰*

At last the test was over but Job’s score was no better and Job’s concluding comment was no different.

“Then Job answered the LORD and said, “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ “Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.” ‘Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.’ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.”⁸¹



Are you at the place where Job is? Are you willing to ask God for understanding? Are you willing to be instructed by Him? Do you see God as Job sees God? Do you fully believe that God’s understanding of the past is infinitely better than your understanding? That His understanding is infinitely better than the sum of all human understanding for all time?

Can you appreciate why many people believe the atheistic explanation of how fortunate we are to live on the earth where just the right conditions exist for life to evolve and flourish? After all it is logical, taught by highly educated people, forced upon students to believe it or face ridicule or grade consequences and relies upon the simple idea that if your population of things is very large

⁷⁹ Job 38:1-7, NAS’95, emphasis mine

⁸⁰ Job 40:4-5, NAS’95, emphasis mine

⁸¹ Job 42:1-6, NAS’95, emphasis mine

there must be at least one of those things having what you are looking for. But perhaps the biggest draw of believing this is that God is not necessary. He is not acknowledged at all!

Believers have good reasons to believe differently than the world believes...

- Unbelievers think that the Bible is “foolishness”. Do you accept or reject God’s Word?

“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”⁸²

- The words of Moses are true because Jesus Christ said so. Do you agree with Jesus?

“But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”⁸³

- The miracles in the Bible are also true and testify to God’s total control over creation. Do you believe that miracles in the Bible were real events?

“You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.”⁸⁴

- God is a reliable witness of all events in every location and through all time. Therefore, do you believe the words of God who was there and knows everything instead of the words of men who were not there, having only limited knowledge and are swayed by bias. Do you share this same attitude as Job when he said

“Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. “Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more.”⁸⁵

**Observation and
 Revelation
 Identifies
 God
 Initiating
 Natural
 Systems**

⁸² 1 Cor. 2:14, NASB, emphasis mine

⁸³ John 5:45-47, NAS’95, emphasis mine.

⁸⁴ Psalms 77:14, NIV, emphasis mine

⁸⁵ Job 40:4-5, NAS’95, emphasis mine

As Believers we do not only rejoice in understanding God's lovingkindness of old. We also gain tremendous hope for the future because God's track record is perfect and reliable. The 365-Day Devotional Commentary by Lawrence Richards puts it this way:

"I will raise up Cyrus" Isa 45:1-25. One of the basic sources of comfort for the believer is the conviction that God is in **complete control of events**.

The theme is **illustrated by God's act in naming Cyrus**, long before his birth, and announcing that Cyrus will be given a "title of honor, though you do not acknowledge Me" (vv. 45:1-7). Whether or not the great ones of our present world honor God, He alone is the source of their existence and position.

The theme is **demonstrated by Creation**. The universe knows only one all-powerful Being, who "made the earth and created mankind upon it" (vv. 45:8-17). Surely the Creator has full power to mold those who are works of His hands into whatever form He chooses.

The theme is **confirmed by God's unique self-existence**. In a universe in which men worship idols, there is "none but Me" who is able to save, who utters a word "that will not be revoked," and who will ultimately receive the homage of all (vv. 45:18-25).

God is in control of world events-and of the days of our lives. Because He is, and because the LORD is "a righteous God and a Saviour" (v. 45:21), **we face the future with confidence and hope."**