

Examining the Cosmos

Session 13

Creation Day 7

Recommended Reading

Hugh Ross, A Matter of Days, (Chapters 18), (NAV PRESS, 2001)

GALILEO'S Battle for the Heavens

In Galileo's day, as well as our own, debates about the Bible and science often take opposing views. The church, be it Evangelical Protestant or Roman Catholic, often is unable to see that the Bible and true science are not opposites but complement each other. The bible, when properly interpreted, and science, when properly understood, are in agreement.

The parallels between then and now are the churches interpretation of the Bible, and church dogma: these often will not change in light of new scientific proofs.

Galileo was a devout Roman Catholic. His understanding of the relationship between the Bible and science was to accept the Biblical text and use science to substantiate the text.

Galileo believed his discoveries would enhance and strengthen the church even though dogma needed to change.

The church in Galileo's day held to a literal interpretation of Psalm 104:5, Psalm 93:1, 96:10 and 1 Chronicles 16:30, "the world is firmly established, it cannot be moved" and "the Lord set the earth on its foundations, it can never be moved".

Galileo with experimental evidence showed the literal interpretation to be incorrect. It was the church's failure to distinguish between "text" and "interpretation" that led to much of Galileo's problems.

Pope John Paul 2nd in 1992 stated that the Church had vindicated Galileo. The Pope said that theologians at that time maintained the centrality of the earth in our solar system and the immobility of the earth to be an erroneous interpretation of the Biblical text, imposed by the literal sense of Sacred Scripture.

Even today, with so much scientific evidence to substantiate an “old age” for our universe, one must study the scriptures to interpret the true meaning. We are not bringing the Bible in line with science, but truly using the Bible to explain scientific discoveries.

The comparability of Genesis 1 with science, truly confirms the biblical accuracy, remembering that the Biblical claims were made thousands of years before science could claim these truths with experimental proofs as evidence.

The record of nature and God’s written Word must be in complete agreement.

Scientific discoveries may help us correct our interpretation of the Bible. As we can see with Galileo, possibly one’s understanding of a passage in the Bible is incorrect and needs to be changed. Scientific facts can sometimes help us arrive at the correct understanding of a passage in God’s Word.

The scripture, “the text”, is correct. It is our faulty interpretation that needs to change.