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Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: God's Word and Works Agree

James Willeford

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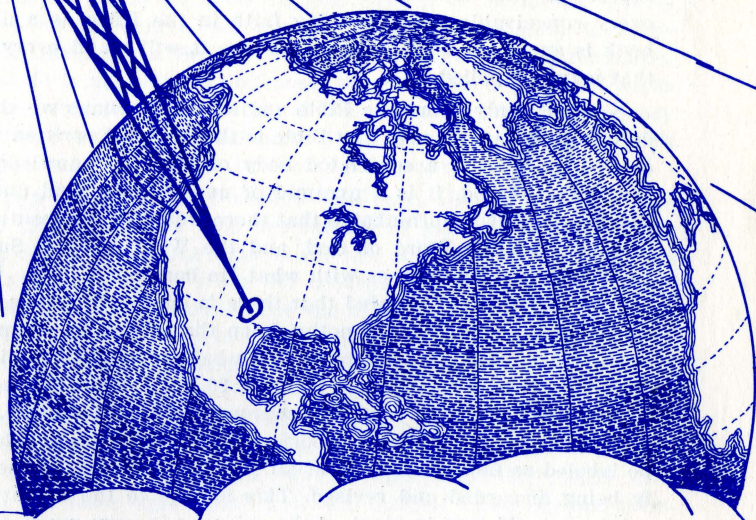
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Churches of Christ— Salute You with a



Sermons

God's Word and Works Agree

James D. Willeford

November 16, 1952

Herald of Truth

God's Word and Works Agree

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We are living in an age that prides itself with being scientific. When a question comes up for discussion, many want to know, "What does science say about it?" This is in striking contrast with a few generations ago when the Bible was considered the final voice in all matters, and not much heed was given to science. But we are living in a new day, when old standards are being tested and tried. Let me hasten to say that I do not regret the fact that the Bible is being tested and tried from every conceivable viewpoint. My faith in the Bible as a divine book is such that I have all confidence it will stand every test that may be applied to it.

As we study about the Bible and science perhaps we should define the terms we use. The Bible is the revealed, written word of God. Science is a correlated body of absolute knowledge of the works of God. It is a pyramid of unquestioned and unquestionable fact. It is unthinkable that there would be any contradiction between the Word of God, and the Work of God. Surely, what God has done agrees with what He has said.

It must be kept in mind that there is such a thing as false science. Paul said, "Oh, Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science falsely so called." (1 Tim. 6:20.) So, there is a pseudoscience. And there are always numerous theories of science. And there are always numerous theories of science which should not be labeled as facts of science at all. These theories are constantly being discarded and revised. This is true to the extent that a ten year old text in most of the sciences is very much out of date. Theories of yesterday give way to new theories of today and thus it shall ever continue to be. It is said that the Library of the Louvre in Paris contains three and a half miles of book shelves holding volumes of science that have become obsolete in the past fifty years. In 1861 the French Academy of Science published what it called 51 scientific facts, each of which it was alleged, contradicted some passage of scripture. Ninety-one years have gone by since that was written. Not a word of the Bible has changed during that time. In these same years the knowledge of science has so changed that there is not a man of science who, today holds to one of those 51 so-called facts.

There are people who have heard it said that the Bible does not agree with science. This is a statement that has been made repeatedly in recent years. And there are people who have cast

the Bible overboard because of this statement. But in view of the facts we have studied, should we not be very hesitant to cast aside the Bible? Suppose the Bible had agreed with all the theories of science in 1861? If it had, then it would be completely out of harmony with science of today. So, we cannot expect the Bible to agree with all the theories of science. Theories are so changeable that no such agreement is possible. But when something is established as a scientific fact, unquestioned and unquestionable, there is no disagreement between the Bible and real science. But as Paul said there is a science that is falsely so-called.

It is well also for us to be reminded of the fact that there is such a thing as false religion. There is Scripture, falsely so-called. Of course, we cannot expect false religion to agree with true science. So, as we study this subject let us remember that all is not science that poses as science and all is not scripture that poses as scripture. If there seems to be a discrepancy between science and scripture it is caused either by people's ignorance of science or by their ignorance of scripture.

As an example of this, it has been alleged by some that the Bible disagrees with the science of geology relative to the age of the earth. But what is the age of the earth. The answers of geologists range from ten thousand years to 10,000 million years. Dr. Croll estimated the age of the earth to be at the most 20 million years. Darwin said it was more than 300 million years. Sir. Charles Lyell said it was about 400 million. And Prof. Ramsay made it fully 10,000 million years. Other eminent scientists have set their estimates at various places between these figures. If the Bible is to agree with scientists on the age of the earth, then we ask, WITH WHICH SCIENTISTS? How can the Bible agree with men who cannot agree among themselves

Some of you may be surprised to know that there is no possible way for the Bible to be out of harmony with science on the age of the earth! The Bible does reveal the age of the earth. The only thing the Bible writers say as to when God created the earth is that He did it "In the beginning." (Gen. 1:1.) It could be said that the earth is ten thousand or ten million years old and the Bible would not have any statement that disagrees with it.

My friends, there are no scientific errors in the Bible even though the books of the Bible were written in the day of scientific ignorance. Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible, lived in an Egyptian culture. The Egyptians believe the earth was hatched from a winged egg. They taught that the

YOU MAY HEAR THE HERALD OF TRUTH OVER THESE STATIONS

Alabama, Anniston	WHMA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Auburn	WAUD	1230	1:00 p.m.
Birmingham	WSGN	610	8:00 a.m.
Florence	WJOI	1340	9:30 a.m.
Gadsden	WGAD	1350	1:00 p.m.
Huntsville	WHBS	1490	1:00 p.m.
Marion	WJAM	1310	9:30 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	1480	6:30 a.m.
Montgomery	WAPX	1800	1:00 p.m.
Selma	WGWG	1340	1:30 p.m.
Tuscaloosa	WJRD	1150	9:00 p.m.
Arizona, Clifton	KCLF	1400	1:00 p.m.
Phoenix	KOY	550	7:00 a.m.
Tucson	KCNA	580	3:00 p.m.
Arkansas, Eldorado	KDMS	1290	1:00 p.m.
Ft. Smith	KFSA	950	1:00 p.m.
Hot Springs	KTHS	1090	1:00 p.m.
Little Rock	KGHI	1250	1:00 p.m.
Springdale	KBRB	1340	6:00 p.m.
Calif., Bakersfield	KPMC	1560	10:00 a.m.
Blythe	KYOR	1450	3:30 p.m.
Brawley	KROP	1300	3:30 p.m.
Eureka	KIEM	1480	8:00 a.m.
Fresno	KARM	1430	3:30 p.m.
Indio	KREO	1400	3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	KECA	790	3:30 p.m.
Modesto	KTRB	860	3:00 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	810	3:30 p.m.
San Luis Obispo	KATY	1340	3:30 p.m.
Colorado, Craig	KRAI	1230	5:30 p.m.
Denver	KVOD	630	3:00 p.m.
Conn., Bridgeport	WNAB	1450	2:00 p.m.
Hartford	WTHT	1230	2:30 p.m.
Delaware, Wilmington	WILM	1450	2:00 p.m.
Florida, Gainesville	WGGG	1230	1:00 p.m.
Jacksonville	WPDQ	600	8:30 a.m.
Miami	WQAM	560	1:00 p.m.
Panama City	WPCF	1400	1:00 p.m.
Pensacola	WEAR	1230	11:00 p.m.
Tallahassee	WTNT	1450	5:00 p.m.
Tampa, St. Pete	WSUN	620	1:00 p.m.
Georgia, Atlanta	WGST	920	1:00 p.m.
Augusta	WGAC	580	2:00 p.m.
Brunswick	WGIG	1440	1:00 p.m.
Calro	WGRA	1300	3:00 p.m.
Columbus	WGBA	1460	7:30 a.m.
Macon	WNEX	1400	1:00 p.m.
Rome	WLAQ	670	1:00 p.m.
Savannah	WDAR	1400	1:00 p.m.
Valdosta	WGAF	910	1:00 p.m.
Idaho, Boise	KGEM	1140	3:00 p.m.
Pocatello	KEIO	1440	9:30 a.m.
Illinois, Chicago	WENR-WLS	890	2:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	1440	8:00 a.m.
Indiana, Anderson	WHBU	1240	1:30 p.m.
Bloomington	WTSB	1370	1:00 p.m.
Evansville	WJPS	1330	1:30 p.m.
Ft. Wayne	WGL	1250	1:00 p.m.
Iowa, Cedar Rapids	WMT	600	7:30 a.m.
Des Moines	KSO	1460	1:00 p.m.
Sioux City	KSCJ	1360	10:30 p.m.
Waterloo	KXEL	1540	5:30 p.m.
Kansas, Coffeyville	KGGF	690	2:00 p.m.
Topeka	WREN	1250	1:00 p.m.
Wichita	KWBB	1410	3:30 p.m.
Ken., Bowling Green	WKCT	930	1:00 p.m.
Harlan	WHLN	1230	3:00 p.m.
Louisville	WKLO	1080	1:00 p.m.
Mayfield	WKTM	1050	4:15 p.m.
Newport	WNOP	740	2:00 p.m.
Louisiana, Baton Rouge	WLCS	910	1:00 p.m.
Monroe	KMLB	1440	2:00 p.m.
New Orleans	WDSU	1280	1:00 p.m.
Shreveport	KRMD	1340	1:00 p.m.

Maine, Bangor	WABI	910	1:00 p.m.
Portland	WPOR	1450	9:00 a.m.
Maryland, Baltimore	WFBR	1300	3:00 p.m.
Cumberland	WDYK	1230	8:00 a.m.
Mass., Gardner	WHOB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Lawrence	WLAW	680	1:00 p.m.
Springfield	WSPR	1270	2:00 p.m.
Worcester	WAAB	1440	2:00 p.m.
Michigan, Battle Creek	WELL	1400	1:00 p.m.
Bay City	WBCM	1440	1:00 p.m.
Detroit	WXYZ	1270	1:00 p.m.
Flint	WFDF	910	10:00 p.m.
Lansing	WILS	1320	1:00 p.m.
Ludington	WKLA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Muskegon	WKBZ	850	2:00 p.m.
Minn., Minn.-St. Paul	WTCN	1280	7:30 a.m.
Mankato	KTOE	1420	2:00 p.m.
Miss., Centerville	WGLC	1580	8:00 a.m.
Aberdeen	WMPA	1240	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WCBI	1340	6:00 p.m.
Greenwood	WABG	960	1:00 p.m.
Jackson	WSLI	930	2:00 p.m.
Kosciusko	WKOZ	1340	1:00 p.m.
Laurel	WLAW	1490	1:00 p.m.
McComb	WSKB	1250	1:00 p.m.
Missouri, Kansas City	KCMO	810	12:30 p.m.
Rolla	KTTT	1490	8:45 a.m.
St. Louis	KXOK	630	2:00 p.m.
Springfield	KWTO	560	1:00 p.m.
Montana, Butte	KOPR	580	9:15 a.m.
Great Falls	KMON	560	7:30 a.m.
Nebraska, Lincoln	KFOR	1240	10:30 a.m.
Omaha	KOIL	1290	5:30 p.m.
Sidney	KSID	1540	9:30 a.m.
N. Hamp., Claremont	WTSV	1230	1:00 p.m.
Lebanon	WTSL	1400	1:00 p.m.
Manchester	WMUR	610	3:00 p.m.
N. Mexico, Albuquerque	KOAT	1450	3:00 p.m.
Carlsbad	KPBK	740	check sta.
Clovis	KCLV	1240	1:00 p.m.
Los Alamos	KRSN	1490	3:00 p.m.
Santa Fe	KTRC	1400	3:00 p.m.
New York, Albany	WXXW	850	2:00 p.m.
New York	WJZ	770	12:30 p.m.
Olean	WHDL	1450	1:00 p.m.
Rochester	WARC	950	3:00 p.m.
Saranac Lake	WEAV	960	2:00 p.m.
Syracuse	WAGE	620	12:00 n.
N. Carolina, Asheville	WLOS	1380	1:00 p.m.
Charlotte	WAYS	610	1:00 p.m.
Durham	WTKI	1310	2:00 p.m.
Elizabeth City	WGAJ	560	12:00 n.
Fayetteville (Sat.)	WFLB	1490	1:00 p.m.
Salisbury	WSAT	1280	1:00 p.m.
Wilmington	WGNI	1340	8:30 a.m.
Winston-Salem	WAIK	1340	1:00 p.m.
N. Dakota, Fargo	HFGO	790	1:00 p.m.
S. Dakota, Huron	KIJV	630	9:00 a.m.
Ohio, Cleveland	WJW	850	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	WHKC	610	1:00 p.m.
Lima	WIMA	1150	9:00 a.m.
Youngstown	WBBW	1240	8:30 a.m.
Oklahoma, Ada	KADA	1230	1:00 p.m.
Enid	KCRC	1390	1:00 p.m.
McAlester	KTMC	1400	1:00 p.m.
Muskogee	KBIX	1490	2:00 p.m.
Oklahoma City	KTOC	1000	9:30 a.m.
Tulsa	KRMG	740	2:00 p.m.
Oregon, Eugene	KASH	1600	1:00 p.m.
Klamath Falls	KFLW	1450	4:30 p.m.
Medford	KMED	1440	7:30 a.m.
Portland	KEX	1190	3:30 p.m.
The Dalles	KODL	1230	1:00 p.m.

Penn., Johnstown	WCRO	1230	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	WFIL	560	2:00 p.m.
Pittsburg	WCAE	1250	3:00 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre	WLK	980	5:00 p.m.
R. Island, Providence	WPJB	1420	1:00 p.m.
S. Carolina, Florence	WJMX	970	10:30 a.m.
S. Dakota, Aberdeen	KSDN	930	10:30 a.m.
Tenn., Chattanooga	WDEF	1370	1:00 p.m.
Jackson	WTJS	1390	1:00 p.m.
Johnson City	WJHL	910	10:30 p.m.
Knoxville	WBIR	1240	1:30 p.m.
Memphis	WMPB	650	9:30 p.m.
Morristown	WCRC	1450	check sta.
Nashville	WSIX	980	4:00 p.m.
Texas, Abilene	KRBC	1470	1:00 p.m.
Amarillo	KFDA	1440	1:00 p.m.
Austin	KNOW	1490	2:00 p.m.
Beaumont	KFDM	560	1:00 p.m.
Big Spring	KBST	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brownfield	KTFY	1300	4:30 p.m.
Brownsville	KVAL	1490	1:00 p.m.
Brownwood	KBWD	1380	6:30 p.m.
Corpus Christi	KEYS	1440	9:00 a.m.
El Paso	KEPO	690	3:00 p.m.
Ft. Worth	WBAP	570	1:00 p.m.
Graham	KSWA	1330	4:30 p.m.
Houston	KXYZ	1320	8:00 a.m.
Longview	KFRD	1370	1:00 p.m.
Lubbock	KFYD	1340	4:00 p.m.
Midland	KCRS	550	1:30 p.m.
New Braunfels	KGNB	1420	3:00 a.m.
Paris	KPLT	1490	9:00 p.m.
San Angelo	KGKL	960	1:00 p.m.
San Antonio	KMAC	630	9:00 p.m.
Texarkana	KCMC	1230	1:00 p.m.
Wichita Falls	KFDX	990	2:00 p.m.
Utah, Provo	KCSU	1490	3:00 p.m.
Salt Lake City	KUTA	570	7:30 a.m.
Vermont, Brattleboro	WTSA	1450	1:00 p.m.
Burlington	WJOY	1230	1:00 p.m.
Montpelier-Barre	WSKI	1240	1:00 p.m.
Virginia, Charlottesville	WINA	1280	9:15 a.m.
Fredericksburg	WFVA	1230	check sta.
Marion	WMEV	1010	2:00 p.m.
Norfolk	WGH	1310	6:30 p.m.
Richmond	WRNL	910	1:30 p.m.
Washington, Aberdeen	KBKW	1450	9:00 p.m.
Omak	KOMW	680	9:15 a.m.
Pasco	KPKW	1340	3:30 p.m.
Seattle	KJR	950	3:30 p.m.
Spokane	KGA	1510	3:30 p.m.
Washington, D. C.	WMAL	630	1:00 p.m.
W. Virginia, Beckley	WWNR	620	1:30 p.m.
Huntington	WHTN	800	8:00 a.m.
Parkersburg, Sat.	WCOM	1230	5:30 p.m.
Wheeling	WKWK	1400	1:00 p.m.
Wisconsin, Green Bay	WUZZ	1400	5:30 p.m.
LaCrosse	WKTY	580	4:00 p.m.
Madison	WIBA	1320	8:00 a.m.
Milwaukee	WCAN	1250	2:00 p.m.
Neenah	WNAM	1280	8:00 a.m.
Wyoming, Casper	KSPR	1470	9:15 p.m.
Cheyenne	KFCB	710	12:00 p.m.
Cody	KODI	1400	12:00 p.m.
Laramie	KOWB	1340	12:00 p.m.
Rawlins	KRAL	1240	12:00 p.m.
Riverton	KWRL	1450	12:00 p.m.
Torrington	KGOS	1490	12:00 p.m.
Worldand	KWOR	1490	12:00 p.m.
Alaska, Juneau (Sat.)	KJNO	630	1:00 p.m.
Canada, Trail, B.C.	CJAT	610	9:30 a.m.
Toronto, Ont.	CKEY	580	9:15 a.m.

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

light of the sun was the reflected light of the earth. Some of the Old Testament prophets lived under the influence of Chaldean culture. The Chaldeans at one time believed that the earth was a living creature. The scientific concepts held by the people of those days were indeed wierd and grotesque. Their science so-called was not science at all.

Now, the point that we wish to impress is this: The Bible was written during those days of scientific ignorance. Moses, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, and Job all lived and wrote in a day when very little was known of natural science. They were surrounded on every hand by error, superstition, and confusion. It was truly an age of darkness. They had none of the modern means with which to make scientific discoveries such as the microscope. It was an atmosphere of ignorance that the men who wrote the Bible lived. And yet, it is striking that when they picked up their pens and wrote their books, none of the scientific nonsense and foolishness of their day found its way into what they wrote. If the men who penned the books of the Bible had not been inspired, if they had been writing of their own volition and knowledge, surely some of those scientific errors which were then so devoutly believed to be truths, would have seeped in somewhere. But none did seep in. We believe the Bible because of what it does not contain. Only inspiration could have prohibited the entrance of the many errors believed during the period when it was written. Unaided men could not have produced a book in that dim and distant age free from scientific inaccuracies. Only God who knew all scientific truth could have directed the writing of such a book!

There have been times when men thought the Bible had inaccurate statements, but the passing of the years and the more recent discoveries have confirmed the claims made by it. Many of the higher critics for years claimed that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible for the simple reason that writing was unknown in the days of Moses. And since the Bible claims that Moses did write these books, they saw in this an obstacle in the way of faith. Moreover, Jesus claimed that Moses wrote them, and the critics therefore involved the Lord Jesus himself in the difficulty. But in the British Museum there can now be seen the Tel-el-amarna tablets containing cunieform writing which dates back 100 years before the day of Moses. In another part of the museum may be seen a copy of the huge black stone eight feet high containing the written laws of King Hammurabi who lived 500 years before Moses and was probably a contemporary of Abraham. So, the existence of writing in Moses' day has been demonstrated by

the monuments found in Bible lands. When Holy scripture and true science are paralleled there is perfect agreement.

Although the Bible was not written as a textbook on science it does contain many truths that unaided men could not have known at the time the Bible was written. The Bible anticipates many of the recent scientific discoveries. The entire first chapter of Genesis corresponds with the facts of geology and astronomy in a way that cannot be accidental. Moses receives the full support of modern science when he contends that this present order of the earth as we know it, was preceded by a span of wild chaos which geology calls the Great Ice Age.

Moses also informs us that all the seas were gathered together in one bed. (Gen. 1:10.) If you will get your globe and notice carefully you will see how true this is. All of the oceans are joined together in one bed. But how did Moses know this? This is a point that I must press. In his day it was believed that the earth was flat and that there was one small ocean. Moses had not beheld the seas. Yet, he wrote with absolute accuracy. He also used the word seas . . . the plural, and this is correct, for even though they are in one bed, they still maintain their individuality even in chemical difference.

Moses also informs us in this great Genesis account of creation that botany preceded animal life which is a scientific fact, and he then proceeded to divide botanical life into three great divisions . . . grasses, herbs, and trees, a division which is quite modern, even for scientists.

Some of you may be surprised to know that the Bible mentions the rotundity of the earth. Isaiah said, "It is he (God) that sitteth upon the circle of the earth." Isa. 40:22. In Isaiah's day it was believed that the earth was flat, and this idea persisted until the days when Columbus discovered America. Someone has said Columbus discovered that the earth is round, and Magellan proved it. but this is not true. Isaiah said it is round, and he made this statement twenty-three hundred years before Columbus or Magellan. Job declared that the earth turns. Job 38:14. The prophet said of the earth, "It is turned as clay to the seal." These men could not have known these truths without help from a higher source than man.

Another amazing truth is stated by Job. The prophet said God "stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7. Notice the first part of this verse in which Job said God "stretcheth out the north over the empty place." Authorities tell us there is a vast expanse in the northern heavens without a star in it. Astronomers did not know this until recent years when the powerful telescopes were

turned toward the heavens, but Job told us 3500 years ago of the empty place in the northern skies.

Job also said that God "Hangeeth the earth upon nothing." Job. 26:7. Is not that simple statement scientifically accurate? The earth is suspended in space by gravity, but how did Job know about gravity. We have not known about it for many years, but Job knew it more than three thousand years ago. He could not have known it at this time by human wisdom, but God knew and He revealed it to the Bible writer. Peter said, "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." II Peter 1:21.

Similar instances could be multiplied, but the process of reasoning we have been following is not the process by which men find God. It only serves to strengthen our faith in the Bible as the revealed word of God. It only attests what scripture states. The purpose of the Bible is to tell men how to find God. And we cannot find Him separate and apart from His word.

Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. He said further in a prayer to His Heavenly Father "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." John 17:17. In the second chapter of Acts we have a concrete example of how men are made free by the word of Christ. The apostles preached the word to sinners, and they were convicted of their sins. They cried, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" By inspiration from Heaven the apostle Peter told them to Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Luke says "they that gladly received his word were baptized," and "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Years later Peter speaks of these people who obeyed the Lord in Jerusalem and he says they were "born again . . . by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." I Peter 1:1, 23.

Are your life and works in harmony with God's word? Let us realize that only the Son of God can lift our burden of sin and give us hope as an anchor of our soul. Only the Son of God can point our way to the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb. 11:10.

(Credit is given to Raymond C. Kelcy for some of the material used in this sermon—J. D. W.)