

Truth and the Two Great Lies

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Although I was raised as an atheist and a scientist, I have come to a different conclusion than my Father and Grandfather. Many people believe that that science disproves the bible, while many others believe the bible disproves science. Both are wrong. God is much greater than that. If God created the universe, then He created everything in it, including the natural law, the principles of physics, chemistry, biology, matter, space, time, scientific truths that we know, that we do not yet know, and some that we may never know. Therefore, nothing revealed by science will ever disprove the existence of God.

The bible is not a scientific textbook. It is a moral textbook. It is meant to teach us how to live out God's message of love, which is sorely lacking in our world today. It was never meant to teach science. Therefore, nothing in the bible can ever be in conflict with scientific knowledge because that is not what the bible is about.

Why should God care about what scientific theories you happen to believe in? If you are a disciple of Christ, love as Christ loved, and take up your cross and follow him, you are following the path to eternal life with him in heaven, even if you think that the earth is flat and the moon is made of green cheese!

Here is the crux of it. If you wanted to sew the seeds of doubt in the faith of men, to undermine their belief in God, to divert them from the path of salvation, what better way could you come up with than the two great lies? You make science your god, or set your faith against science. Either way, you are clouded with doubt and denial, the two hallmarks of sin. If you were the deceiver, the prince of lies, could you have done any better?

This is no mere theoretical theological issue for scholars to debate. There is much at stake! Two years after I became a Catholic Christian, my mother of blessed memory lost her fight with breast cancer and passed away. With bitter sadness she spoke her last words to me, "I just want to go to sleep and not wake up again." My mother was an Agnostic. She was also kind, gentle, and loving. She, who grew up in an orphanage from the time she was 5 years old, resolved that her children would always know they were loved. Before her funeral, I was alone with her. I placed my hands on the closed coffin lid and said, "Mom, how do I say goodbye?" She answered me with these words: "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord shine down his face upon you and grant you peace." Of course most people would know that was the final blessing of a funeral. Not me though. When the Rabbi gave that blessing to her, I knew that my Mother did wake up again.

And yet, many lose faith because they are convinced that a just God would never have let their loved ones suffer and die from cancer, even though God was willing to suffer on the

cross so that we would not be alone in our suffering. This bitterness often turns to anger and a capacity for evil. Oh yes, there is a lot at stake!

Therefore, let us resolve to answer the call to encounter these shadows. Let us light the candle of reason, common sense, and most of all, of God's love, to help all of us see them as they truly are, only shadows, and pass them by.