

The Mustard Seed Advent, 24-Sep-2012

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CAPTION: "...One lesson which now comes to the forefront is the conclusion which I have reached: Christians cannot defend the Bible against atheists or evolutionists, claiming to be defending God's integrity and Bible accuracy, until they themselves dismiss their own Bible biases so as to discern exactly what the Bible, in this case, the creation story, really does indeed teach. Ergo, they cannot defend God's word until they fully understand and agree to exactly what it is that God actually said and what it is that God claims..."

Creation's Validation Bell

Dave,

In your latest E-mail, 24-Sep-12, you suggested that I listen to an internet video production, one that you felt successfully promoted creation over evolution and did so by use of Bible and scientific evidence. Because of your expressed enthusiasm and also because of Vinnette's prompting, I violated my immediate sentiments and took pause to hear the video, the free one that you put forward to me in your E-mail. We listened to it together as a Sabbath-day educational endeavor, and then I relistened to it to obtain accurate details for my analysis.

After listening to it twice, I can safely judge that the video was produced by a fringe Adventist production, a point that required some deciphering as that fact was not openly or plainly expressed. It suggests new light —my words not theirs— pertaining to what they have deemed to be the location of God's throne. They seek to prove it to be in the center of the universe. More than that, they purport that the throne, God's *Great White Throne*, is headquartered in our galaxy, and this they prove by use of recent, scientific-measuring standards which they evidently choose to favor but which may not be reliable. It was produced by *Three Angels Ministries* (3AM) and is, as best as I could discern, the published findings of a consortium of Adventists and secular scientists who examine scientific findings to prove Bible claims. As an MSA who grew up in Adventism and familiar with their inside jargon, I immediately discerned the SDA fingerprints on the documentation —a definite red flag for credibility— and was not impressed with its Bible scholarship. But I thank you for the recommendation as it gives me an opportunity to forge counsel and judgment on their work just in case others need divine direction to gauge its value to our work.

Several things caused me to become distrustful. First and foremost was the video's overuse of traditional Adventists, inside shop talk and keystone-Adventist Scriptures, phrases such as Seventh-day Sabbath, great white throne, first angel's message, God's judgment, creation, etc. My skepticism surfaced because they have an agenda and because I know that they cannot properly teach or defend even those historic and keystone, Adventist Bible doctrines. How then can any trust them to, without bias, promote murky and complex, controversial scientific findings and the corresponding, analytical methodologies? My impression of the video was that their findings were merely superficial assertions which, in the course of time, if widely acclaimed, will be just another cherished doctrine that will become impossible to therefrom divest of when the true light is fully unveiled. I find it ironic that bad theologians now desire to forge a marriage with science to promote their anti-science, evangelical ambitions. It is as if they have tired of seeking to dazzle the church with their trifling and half-hearted constructions of the Bible; so now, rather than searching

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the Bible with more intensity, they seek to intertwine even less certifiable teachings, those of astronomical science. In other words, rather than illegally eliciting EGW's work to boost their doctrines, as they traditionally have done, or rather than citing even the work of one of their own, less-inspired authors, they now desire to gain credibility by use of a scientific method.

“The call to this great and solemn work was presented to men of learning and position; had these been little in their own eyes and trusted fully in the Lord, He would have honored them with bearing His standard in triumph to the victory. But they separated from God, yielded to the influence of the world, and the Lord rejected them.”

“Many have exalted science and lost sight of the God of science. This was not the case with the church in the purest times.”

“God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals.” —EGW, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p 82: 2-4.

It would not be so objectionable if the only people whom their efforts will confuse would be the evolutionists and atheists of the world, but to the contrary, their pseudo scholarship seems to, as indicated by virtue of your recommendation, obviously confuse serious Bible students. Their work is mildly offensive to me also because they, in a typical SDA penchant, promote their findings with a slyly-concealed profit orientation as they offer to sell their findings asking the viewer to purchase more expansive revelations of their work. The free segment is obviously merely a tease, one that did not seduce me to go further. Adventists, ever lurching to titillate the apocalyptic curiosities within the naïve masses, prostitute seemingly all of their doctrines instead of offering them freely to the public so as to achieve their primary goal of promoting Christ and thereby defeating the devil. In addition to the capitalistic medium for promoting the Gospel, the graphics in the video seem to likewise arouse annoyance within me. They use old and recycled images depicting their non-biblical renditions of Jesus/God's second coming including overused artwork that is heavily latent with cultural bias —bias expressing their archaic renditions of how Jesus and God look. Imagine the banal, thoughtless, and vain scheme which teaches that one would, after being saved, travel to the center of the universe merely to find an English man ruling the eternal cosmos. It is not that I despise the European image; it conveys some definite divinely installed graces and dignity, but to overlay the Highest with only the qualities of that image is to deny the other highly valued qualities or talents vested in the various other human physiques and faces around the globe, the faces for which Father so yearned that, to win them to Him, He gave to us His Only Begotten Son. Such may be a problem merely in my mind, but, to me it is old, overly clichéd, and tired. Yet, I do understand that Adventists have a special interest and a need to participate in the creation debate; however, it seems counterproductive to me for them to persuade the evolutionists to abandon their baseless biases while they hypocritically refuse to do the same.

Having watched the video twice for accuracy and then shortly thereafter, within hours, having my computer internet connection corrupted, my overall experience with the video was not positive. Too bad that Vinnette, who pushed the idea of viewing the video, had to interrupt her normal workload the next day to contact technical help so as to resolve the resultant computer problems. Through it all, she did her job; she served as my eyes and ears, my helpmeet, and for this I do cherish her, but her enthusiasm not only yielded the fruits of this letter; it also came with the cost of her own time schedule. One lesson which now comes to the forefront is the conclusion which I have reached: Christians cannot defend the Bible against atheists or evolutionists, claiming to be

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defending God's integrity and Bible accuracy, until they themselves dismiss their own Bible biases so as to discern exactly what the Bible, in this case, the creation story, really does indeed teach. Ergo, they cannot defend God's word until they fully understand and agree to exactly what it is that God actually said and what it is that God claims. For example, consider the following brief points:

- Does the Bible credit God for creating the universe, or does it merely take credit for creating the solar system in six days? The MSC teaches and proves the latter conclusion, but, in the very day that Bible evidence is given to prove the former, the MSC will apologize and teach it with the same fervor. But it will not teach it now for that conclusion is merely the predicate of a popular Bible presumption. Tradition has taught the former, that the entire universe, all of the vast stars and galaxies, was created in the creation week, and this it has done only by the inferential conclusions of uninspired scholars.

“There are few really consecrated men among us, few who have fought and conquered in the battle with self. Real conversion is a decided change of feelings and motives; it is a virtual taking leave of worldly connections, a hastening from their spiritual atmosphere, a withdrawing from the controlling power of their thoughts, opinions, and influences. The separation causes pain and bitterness to both parties. It is the variance which Christ declares that He came to bring. But the converted will feel a continual longing desire that their friends shall forsake all for Christ, knowing that, unless they do, there will be a final and eternal separation. The true Christian cannot, while with unbelieving friends, be light and trifling. The value of the souls for whom Christ died is too great.”

“He ‘that forsaketh not all that he hath,’ says Jesus, ‘cannot be My disciple.’ Whatever shall divert the affections from God must be given up. Mammon is the idol of many. Its golden chain binds them to Satan. Reputation and worldly honor are worshiped by another class.”

“...The voice of the faithful watchman will be heard: ‘Go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord’.” — EGW, Ibid, p 83: 0, 1.

To make such a grand stand and teach that the entire universe was created by God in the creation week described in Genesis is to greatly assist Adventists in their zeal to oversell the gravity tug of the Fourth Commandment beyond the power of its intended relevance and significance: Instead of an orbiting planet, they want to make it the very sun which blazes the entire Ten Commandments —to use a keenly-tailored metaphor. Several subordinate points must be attached to this first bullet:

- The authors of the video have twisted their finding to harmonize, without added Bible evidence, with that traditional bent. They believe, and the video asserts, that God created —not just our solar system, but— the entire universe in six days. That finding also helps them affirm supposed scientific claims that the universe is expanding. Furthermore, the Adventist scholars seek to show that which they claim that dishonest scientists desire to hide; that is, they assert that the universe is expanding outwardly from our galaxy giving proof that the earth is in the center of the universe.
- This they do even though they acknowledge *Job 38* which shows people, “the morning stars” in existence before the six-day creation, people who celebrated its marvelous achievement. And this they also do by, “a new-light finding”: by suggesting the existence of a universe beyond the furthestmost and outer parameter of the current “expanding universe” making it the abode of the celebrating morning stars described in the Book of Job. One would have to wonder, were these stars other gods? —the video does not say! Genesis, as shown in my letter entitled, *Christmas Light from the Pit*, 12-23-2007, (see website, mustardseedadvent.com) proves that the Bible makes no claim that God created the universe in six days.
- All should be reminded that God created earth within its solar system to give man a home —not God. Thus, there is no reason for Him to locate His throne in the center of that creation. He would have to begin by saying, “let us make a home, a holy habitation, and then let us make man.”
- To the contrary of the six-day-universe conclusion, I prove that the six literal days of work, defined in Genesis, represents the creation of the sun, the earth, the moon, the

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asteroids, the Kuiper belt, the comets, and the stars (which refers to the planetary bodies). It shows that when Isaiah refers to the Lord expanding the heavens (See 40: 22, 42: 5, 48: 13, etc), he is referring to Him taking/exploding the larger and tightly-compressed masses which formed all of those other solar-system bodies and sending them away from the center —leaving there, the matter which forged the sun but sending the other mass— into multiple orbits. You may desire to revisit that letter for more clarity about the MSA's beliefs.

- The Bible claim to the creation of “heaven and earth” does not mean heaven as we define it, but as *Gen one* defines it, the firmament or atmosphere. It says, “**And God called the firmament Heaven...**” —Gen 1: 8. It also expands the meaning of heaven, giving it a multiple meaning, by saying, “**And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so**” —Gen 1: 15. Hence, the MSC teaches with much Bible evidence, that the term heaven is used imprecisely to reference all that we see when we gaze upward to the sky: It could be the atmosphere that we see in the day, or vast universe that we see at night, or the limited atmosphere that we see on a cloudy night. It is only human presumption, not Bible claims, that causes us to assert that the creation of heaven means the very creation of every body, every sun, every galaxy in the universe. In the Bible, just as in the case with human language, words are used as homonyms; one sound may have various meanings. Just like a traveler may say he traveled in a trailer: He could mean mobile home, a railroad, a semi-tractor trailer truck, etc. Before we can ascertain His meaning we need to examine all possible deployments of the term.
- Also, the Bible claims that, during the creation week, God made the stars. That claim does not give to us the right of presumption regarding that homonym either. Today we see lights in the night sky and we call those lights stars. However, some of those stars that we see are planets like Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, etc. The two terms, planets and stars, were used in Bible times interchangeably. By virtue of the fact that Genesis does not mention the creation of planets suggests that the term, star, accounts for their creation. Especially is this conclusion reliable since it references the other bodies in the solar system. It says, “**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**” —Gen 1:16. If we assumed that stars, in this contexts, meant the distant suns that we see, some many times greater than our sun, then we would be forced to conclude that God did not make the planets, the asteroids, the other moons, the comets, and other material in our solar system for He did not mention them in the Text. Since they are not, this forces the conclusion that they are contained under the term “stars”.
- One point that greatly shows theological bias, a bigotry so great that it does not even compare to that deployed by the evolutionist, is the assumption that God, the Most High, was the One who created the earth. The Bible, even Adventist doctrine, clearly expresses that Christ created the earth. But, being heavily dominated by 1700 years of Constantinian theology, the authors of the video presume that which the Bible now resoundingly denies, that Christ and Jesus and God are all one-and-the-same being.
 - Albeit, a caveat must be offered: The truth is that, although Christ created the solar system in six days, God, in final analysis, deserves credit for everything that Christ does, and He, Christ, is still learning, He received that knowledge from the Highest. He said as much: “**...The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel**” —John 5: 19, 20.
 - The video even takes you on an imaginary excursion to God's *Great White Throne*. And whom do you see thereon sitting, a depiction of God with nail prints in His hands. They do not even show a right-hand seat of Jesus. This Suggests, against the thrust of the *Testimony of Jesus*, that God did not send His Son but came Himself and that is how He received the nail prints in His hands —a stark violation of Jesus' testimony. Worse than that, it also suggests that God died on Calvary. Anyone who is so ignorant about the Bible to this degree cannot dare claim the assignment to convert the evolutionist or the heathen.
- We as Adventists have only learned of God through the testimony of the disciples. This is just as it was intended by Christ as manifested in His closing prayer. He said, “**Neither pray**

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I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word...that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” —John 17: 20, 21. Did Father send the Lord or did He come Himself? The Gospel writer, the favored-of-the-Lord, John himself, shows that Christ, not Father, was sent and that He also created the world. He said, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made”**—John 1: 1, 3.

- Of course, the statement which says, “the Word was God”, may seem to be enough to convince many to believe—in spite of the fact that the God sent Christ, the Son, aka, “the Word”— that Christ and Father are one-and-the-same beings. This notion has been resoundingly dashed by the writings of the *mustard seed*. What has been proven is that Christ had authority to represent Himself as God; hence, when Old-Testament writers call Him God, they were speaking of Christ, Father’s *Secretary of State*, the One given *power of attorney* to represent God. Such simplified communications were done to aid them in their theological ignorance until the time when Christ’s identity, His name could be unfolded. Thus does John say, “the Word was God” —meaning that Christ was the One whom we called God. The ancients who are mentioned as part of the OT church were on the low-end of the educational schedule, and it was not expedient to differentiate for them the distinctions between Father and Son—not to mention the distinctions between Jesus, the Only Begotten, from Christ, the Eternal son. This learning schedule is clearly biblical and is made manifest in several Texts, a few of which are cited below:

“And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them” —Ex 6: 2, 3. Clearly, He had no need to teach His, Christ’s, ordained patriarchs the fullness of His identity in the kindergarten phase of their learning syllabus, when, in the eternal Kingdom (see Luke 13: 28 & 29) they would, after being resurrected, have an eternity to learn of His full identity. The Lord’s mission was to secure for them membership into the Kingdom, His college of higher learning.

Such is made manifest also when He told Israel the following: **“For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”** —Hos 6: 6.. Some may presume that because Christ installed animal sacrifices, as directly specified and required by His word, that such is proof that they can now please Him by offering the same today. This obtuse and dullness of logic helps us to understand our ignorance for how could such an offering really please Him since He never desired it? We only thought that He did because we, as uneducated students yesterday, knew that He asked for it. Yet, instead of that, He desired something that we were not capable of receiving then: He yearned for Israel’s full education about His Father, the Highest. Such sacrifices were not His purpose, His orientation, even though He pre-specified that very thing early in the human, educational syllabus. Evidently, Christ operates on a level of complexity and sophistication that only a mind who has heeded His New-Testament Command and has learned of Him (See Matt 11: 25-29) can properly discern. His goal was to educate Israel about God, and this facet of His teaching could not be expressed until He was sent by Father to abide, clandestinely upon Jesus, so as to present to us the revelations of the Father. Having done so, His assignment was finished 2000 years ago; immediately afterwards, Jesus was raised from the dead to begin His work for the gentiles. But, at the end of Christ’s work, He who abode clandestinely upon Jesus said, **“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do...I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world...”** —John 17: 4, 6. Christ finished His work; Jesus just began His. This light, if given to Moses to describe the creation, would have been premature by nearly 1500 years, the time when Moses recorded the books of the Pentateuch, including Genesis. Thus did Moses, to simplify the equation, state, **“In the beginning God created...”** Ergo, the Man sitting on the *Great White Throne* should not be depicted

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as Jesus or Christ. This should not be, even though Christ was given power of attorney to legally represent Himself as God. He was given this by the Father as manifested when He said, **“That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him”** —John 5: 23.

Another Text which shows that Christ was the God of the Old Testament was expressed as follows: **“When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people: Jacob is the lot of his inheritance”** —Deut 32: 8, 9. Unequivocally, a distinction is made between Father and Christ, and Father, the Most High, is defined as the Owner of the inhabitants of the earth. Why Christ is credited for creation while Father retained ownership is a matter for another study. For now several lessons pertain:

- Clearly, the identity of Christ and the distinction between Him and Father, was a “strong-meat doctrine” that, although valid, was not a point of education for Israel 3500 years ago. This is just the case for similar reasons why Christ, through Moses, never identified the purpose or efficacy, or intended benefits of the other nations which Father, rather than giving to Christ, reserved for Jesus. One deployment of theirs is evidently the mastery of the sciences.
- The church did not register into their theology this hierarchy that existed in heaven whereby the Lord was required to inherit possessions from a Greater Power, “the Highest”. Hence, to understand another advanced doctrine on the learning syllabus, *Creation of our Solar System* and then the *Creation of the Universe*, we cannot declare, as Gospel, the limited light as it was presumed yesterday until we explore the full, ever-expanding depths of Moses' account.
- To make this point clear, we know that, 3500 years ago, none in Israel nor any on the entire planet would have asked Moses the question, “who created Jupiter and Saturn,” because it was not until Galileo, some 2000-years-later that those celestial bodies were even part of human curiosity —not to mention the full array of intellectual machinations pertaining to gravity verses quantum physics. Hence, Moses merely listed those planets or any comet that may have been observed under the title, “stars”.
- The miracle of the Bible is that those truths that he expressed to them were contained within Moses' writings by use of utterance of a multi-dimensional and multi-leveled communicate. This allows all levels of educational advancements, with the aid of divine Inspiration, to reference the same literature to learn. Proof of this and the need for inspiration is that none of the religious scientists, until the MSC, have discerned the meaning of the statement, **“In the beginning...the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.—Gen 1:1, 2”** It could never convey the meaning of what quantum physics now defines as a “black hole” until we first learned of that phenomena. But before this becomes uppermost in our minds, first we must become educated about Christ and Father. Having accomplished this, then we can educate the heathen and the evolutionist.

In final analysis, the atheist and the evolutionist are, as was Israel, on a similar educational syllabus. The Lord will only seek to convince them, not by the tawdry and disreputable efforts of the theologians today, but when Israel is resuscitated from their demise. You certainly can never hope to achieve such a lesson as the video sought to do, by arguing by way of deployment of the so-called scientific evidence that corrupt men, no matter how genius, have proffered. The Lord has a different strategy. He revealed it by saying the following:

“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them...I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; AND THE HEATHEN SHALL

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KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD, SAITH THE LORD GOD, WHEN I SHALL BE SANCTIFIED IN YOU BEFORE THEIR EYES. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land” —Ezek 36: 17-19, 23, 24

The term heathen certainly applies to the atheist and the evolutionist. Commensurately, Adventists, Christians, and others who depict the Highest solitarily sitting on His *Great-White Throne*, in the center of the universe, with nail prints in His hands and seated devoid of His Son seated on His right hand, His Son who legitimately should have nail prints in His hands, are equal in their ignorance about God —on par with the evolutionist. They cannot discern the name of the Lord; they take it in vain; and they need to be schooled. Their day of education, the time when Christ promises to make them know of His identity, is to occur soon, and it will be free of charge. It is scheduled to take place when Christ is sanctified in Israel before their very eyes. Let us not seek to teach that class until the bell rings and, by the Lord’s provisions, we can, in a timely fashion, proceed to that class room.

Sincerely,

Derek