

1. The Bible is superstitious

- a. Scripture is adamantly anti-superstition.
 - i. Superstition is manipulation of objects to gain rewards; Scripture calls this idolatry.
 - ii. Condemns spiritism, casting lots, etc.
 - iii. Even sacrifices are not for a good harvest, etc. They are to maintain a *relationship* (ex. Day of Atonement)..

2. Religion was invented to provide explanations for natural phenomena. Science has now taken over that role.

- a. The Bible is *remarkably* free of pseudoscientific descriptions of nature.
- b. Example: Lightning
 - i. Baltic thunder god Perkunas rotated his lightning club in the solar wheel.
 - ii. Vishnu turned a disk that shot lightning in all directions.
 - iii. Thor struck an anvil with his hammer Mjolnir while riding his chariot across the clouds.
 - iv. For Roman augurs, lightning flashing from east to west was a good omen. West to east, not so good.
 - v. Zeus threw thunderbolts.
 - vi. Gods of lightning include Huracan (Mayan), Dian Mu (Chinese) who uses lightning to judge evildoers before the god of thunder punishes them.
- c. In the Bible, lightning is just lightning. No mythical explanations are given. It's left to the God-given intellect of man to discover electricity.
- d. Look for phony explanations of tides, eclipses, northern lights, whatever. You won't find them in Scripture. (You will in places find clearly poetic passages.)

3. Man can rise higher and faster when freed from religion.

- a. Humility is beneficial in science, business, and life. Pride is poisonous to good science.
- b. Humility is seeking to have truth made known to you and following it.
- c. Historically, officially atheistic societies have degenerated into cruelty and state sponsored superstition (ex. French Revolution, Stalinist USSR).

4. The Bible teaches flat earth.

- a. People knew the earth was round before Columbus.
- b. "Four corners" of the earth is a poetic description.

5. Christianity is the past; science is the future.

- a. Not nostalgic; no golden age or sentimentality.
- b. "Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- c. Materialism has always been present.

6. Adherence to the Bible requires belief in unsustainable theories

- a. Nowhere does scripture demand adherence to a particular scientific theory that may someday fall out of favor ("The Bible is not a science textbook").
- b. Physical facts in the Bible are not presented as theorems that explain other phenomena. Ex: Adam is formed from dust as a supernatural act of creation. Compare the Greek theory of earth, air, fire and water.

7. The Bible gives only spiritual truths, not literal facts.

- a. Scripture is full of names, numbers, dates, genealogies, etc.

8. The Bible discourages inquiry.

- a. God told Adam to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. That certainly would include exploring its scientific treasures.
- b. Adam's first act was to name animals (nomenclature).
- c. Solomon, wisest man who lived, was a student of nature (1 Kings 4:29-34). He used his wisdom to understand and glorify God.
- d. "It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out" (Prov. 25:2).

9. The theory of evolution is critical to most practical advances in biology and medicine.

- a. Example: Strains of drug resistant bacteria
- b. Setting aside evidence in favor of either theory,

10. Science is making only minor refinements to our picture of the universe.

- a. Scientific conceptions of universe
 - i. Ptolemy
 - ii. Copernicus
 - iii. Einstein
- b. We may be on the verge of another universe being proposed.
 - i. Problem of background radiation: Unexpected uniformity
 - ii. Problem of Hubble's constant ("Cosmology in crisis"): Universe is expanding at 67 or 74 km/sec/megaparsec, depending on whether you look at "baby" universe or "old" universe
 - iii. Science has already postulated:
 - 1. Dark matter: Matter you can't see
 - 2. Dark energy: Energy you can't detect.
 - iv. Previous changes of paradigm have begun with inexplicable observations and have led to social disruption.
 - v. Our conception of the continuity of time may change. "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation" (2 Peter 3)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17),