

CHAPTER FOUR

Science and the Church

This book is not to convince the established Christians and the preachers that the universe is 14 billion years old. It is not to convince anyone of the Big Bang theory or of anything else that pertains to science. For really, what does it matter? This book is to urge Christians not to cast out any potential souls because of doctrine that the Earth is only 6000 years old, or that the Earth is flat, or that the sun goes around the Earth or that organ music is taboo in church.

Theologians throughout history have made adjustments in the idea of how the Earth was formed. Early theologians thought the Earth was flat, not round like a sphere, and in those days they had the authority to murder anyone who did not believe the Earth was flat. Once it was established and proven that the Earth was in fact a sphere, the theologians had to rethink and make adjustments on what the Earth looked like. Likewise, when the mathematicians said that the sun did not go around the Earth, that in fact the Earth went around the sun, again the church murdered these people. Giordano Bruno was a mathematician that was burned at the stake by the church for his theory that the Earth went around the sun. Galileo, a famous, well-to-do mathematician and astronomer, was sentenced to house arrest for the last 10 years of his life for stating the Earth went around the sun. Can you imagine a church, also professing salvation, inflicting this kind of punishment on people who are only trying to gain knowledge of God's creation? Has the 21-century church not learned anything from its evil past? Once it was proven, beyond a doubt, that the Earth did go around the sun then the theologians

had to rethink their position again and change their attitude. Now, theologians are going to have to rethink the Big Bang theory, because everyday the evidence becomes stronger.

Fortunately in this day and time, theologians do not have the authority to murder those people whose ideas do not coincide with their ideas of biblical teachings. In science, the curious can investigate and discuss freely among themselves what they have found without the fear of persecution. The young curious minds of our youth are learning science every day in school, on television, and in books. If the church does not accept these theories and in fact they rebuke these theories as being blasphemy, they are going to chase away and repulse these curious minds. Then when these young people grow up and become leaders in the community and industry, they will not have the teachings of Christ to guide them so that this will be a better world.

If the preachers have doubts about the scientists stating the universe began 14 billion years ago and expanded from nothing, then the preachers should check the mathematics. If the preachers find flaws in the math then the preachers should go to a science pow wow and explain the flaws and then prove mathematically that the universe is only 6000 years old or 100 years old or whatever age seems appropriate to their biblical interpretations.

Most major Christian church denominations have large universities with a science and mathematics departments. It would be very simple for the church to call upon the scientists in these universities to investigate the Big Bang theory and to submit a report determining if the theory is real or not. Few preachers would talk against the Big Bang theory if the scientists in his church would not back him up.

When a preacher meets an atheist and the atheist criticizes Christ and his teachings, does the atheist not look ridiculous when he states that he has never read the Bible? Upon what authority can the atheist judge Christ if he does not know what Christ stands for? Likewise does not the preacher look ridiculous if he has not investigated the mathematicians and the astronomical data concerning the Big Bang and yet preaches against this theory?

Why must the preachers and other followers of the flat earth society make their belief a condition to know Jesus? There is nothing rational about this belief, nor can it be substantiated in the Bible. Preachers who condemn a person because he or she does not agree the Earth is flat is in effect damning Christianity.

A perfect example of how God feels about these things was evident when Christ was hanging on the cross. He had two men hanging beside Him, one on the right and one on the left. The man on the left said, "If you are the true God, get us down." Now these men were murderers and thieves. They were concerned with their life because they were about to die, but the man on the right had pangs of guilt and he felt sorry for what he had done and he knew he had been wrong and caused much pain. The man on the left was only concerned for himself. The man on the right said, "This man has done nothing wrong, we deserve death but he does not." And Christ looked into his eyes, which are the windows of the soul, and saw that the man was truly sorry for what he had done. He did not ask him if the world was flat or it was shaped like a basketball or even shaped like an ice cube. His only concern was his soul and He told the man on the right that he would go with Him to salvation.

To get into the kingdom of God you need to believe in God, the grace of God, Christ as the savior, and be truly sorry for causing pain. All else is of no consequence.

You, the preacher can kill a man and the man you killed may have believed in Christ and this man because of the grace of God may be with God forever. You the preacher may have deep pangs of conscience and ask for forgiveness from God and the man's families.

By the grace of God you may also be saved and have eternal life. But if you repulse a man from God for something so petty as the Earth is flat, the sun goes around the earth or the Earth is only 6000 years old, then this man is lost to God forever and you have denied this man everlasting life and cheated God of this man's company. For this you will someday answer to God.

A PARABLE

Once a young petroleum engineer named Charlie and his family moved to a remote town in the West. Charlie was looking for oil and gas deep in the Earth and his knowledge of geology was telling him that he was getting close to finding a commercial reservoir. Charlie used the age of rocks to find these hydrocarbons and he knew geology very well and he knew he had to use the fossilized animals in the rock to determine the age of the rocks so he could determine where the deposits were located.

Meanwhile the young Charlie was beginning to feel the need for spiritual guidance for himself and his family. He felt there was something that put this universe together and brought order to it and he began looking for that something. Something to make them whole. One day Charlie met a man that began to talk to him about Jesus and who he was and what this Jesus had done for all mankind. The young Charlie began to

listen and then he began to study the teachings of Jesus. Soon Charlie was taking his family to church and they were thrilled to learn more about Jesus. About the time they were to be baptized they began to study Genesis.

When the preacher said the Earth was only six thousand years old, the young Charlie said, “Why do you say this? I look for rocks in the Earth that are millions of years old. That is how I make my living.”

The preacher said, “You cannot believe in Jesus Christ unless you believe the Earth is only six thousand years old.”

The young Charlie said, “I don’t understand why I have to believe the Earth is six thousand years old to believe in Jesus. But if that is a condition to know Jesus then I will find something else.”

With that the preacher said to him “Be gone.” And young Charlie and his family left and were lost to Christ forever.