

The BEACON



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Speaking as the Oracles of God

by John M. Duvall

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different religious groups in the world today? The answer is simple. Some people do not understand what it means to speak as oracles. The same reason applies as to why there are differences among certain churches of Christ. An enormous amount of damage has been caused by people not speaking as oracles.

Peter gives the admonition to speak as an oracle of God. "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God." (I Pet. 4:11, NKJV) I Peter 4:11 "warns that the teacher of Christian truths must speak as one who utters oracles of God—a message from God and not his own opinions." (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary) The word oracle is translated from the greek word *logion* and means, "a diminutive of *logos*, 'a word, narrative, statement,' denotes 'a divine response or utterance, an oracle'; it is used of...(d) the utterances of God through Christian teachers, 1 Pet. 4:11." (Vine's)

To speak as an oracle of God is a very demanding responsibility. In order to speak as an oracle of God, you must make certain that you have book, chapter, and verse for what you are teaching. Unfortunately, there have been several who have not taken this teaching very seriously. Because some have forsaken their responsibility to speak as an oracle of God, we have before us today many differing religious beliefs. Consider one very simple illustration. To speak as an oracle of God would be to teach that if one believes and is baptized, he will be saved. (Read Mark 16:16) Many have rejected this simple teaching.

Consider another example of others forsaking this sacred duty of speaking where the Bible speaks. The 1904 Methodist Discipline reads, "Nodivorce, except for adultery, shall be regarded by the Church as lawful; and no Minister shall solemnize marriage in any case where there is a divorced wife or husband living; but this rule shall not be applied to the innocent party to a divorce for the cause of adultery, nor to divorced parties seeking to be reunited in marriage." (paragraph 66, pg 55) This

seems to be in line with Matthew 5:32 and 19:9. Now, let us take notice of a big change in belief. In the 1972 "Book of Discipline", you will find, "In marriages where the partners are, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce and the right of divorced persons to remarry,..." (Para. 72, pg 85-86)

Did you notice the change? Unfortunately, I do not know what the most current "Book of Discipline" says on this matter. However, this 1972 change is a good example of people departing from the practice of speaking as oracles of God. Anytime a religious group denies a Bible teaching or adds a teaching to the Bible, then they are not speaking as oracles of God.

Within some churches of Christ some have abandoned the practice of speaking as oracles. In order for a local church to establish authority for itself, it must consider any commands, examples, and inferences referring to the work of the local church. These commands, examples, and inferences must all be viewed as oracles. Sadly, some have chosen not to view all necessary examples as oracles, but simply guidelines. Allow me to give you a simple illustration. In Acts 11:27-30, we see a specific example of the saints in Antioch taking up a collection to send to Jerusalem to aid the needy saints. The text reads, "Then the disciples, each according to his

ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea." (Acts 11:29, NKJV) Some teachers and preachers have taken this example and turned it into "another example." Some say that this is an example of one church sending money to another church for the elders to do with as they please. However, the text clearly shows a purpose behind the sending of money. The true example, the oracle, shows us that one congregation can send money to another congregation if the money is for the purpose of helping needy saints. Nothing else can be pulled from this passage.

The question that you must ask yourself is this: When you speak of Bible things, do you speak as an oracle of God? Do you accurately represent what the word of God has to say? I have given you three examples of how people, even members of the church, have ceased to speak as the oracles of God. Please take it upon yourself to study faithfully the Word of God so that you will be able to speak only as the Bible speaks.



**“SPEAKING
WHERE THE
BIBLE SPEAKS
AND KEEPING
SILENT WHERE
THE BIBLE IS
SILENT”**

Lesson 3

We have already learned that microevolution, the Law of Cause and Effect, the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics refute macroevolution. There is more.

4. The Law of Biogenesis teaches that life comes only from life, not lifeless chemicals. An atom does not have an attribute of life. A lifeless chemical cannot cause an effect (life) that it does not possess itself which then causes additional millions of greater effects to end as people. No such event has ever been observed. If a living cell were ever created from nonlife by human design, i.e. using intelligent input ... it would not prove macroevolution since it would not have been a spontaneous, random event.



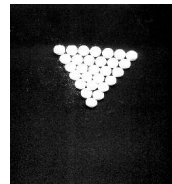
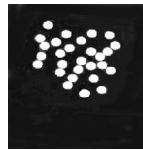
But the atheists keep reminding us with their glowing tales of how Time, Chance and Environment somehow brought aliveness into being. First of all, Time is not physical and cannot be the cause of anything. If milk turns sour over time, Time did not cause it. The milk did it all by itself. Chance is not physical and cannot cause anything. Chance can predict the occurrence of events if it is known for sure that from observation or design they can occur. A lottery can be won since it was designed to be won. By experimentation, we know that by flipping 100 pennies, the result will end up with about 50 heads and 50 tails.

If a rare event can first be designed to occur such as a scientist creating life in a test tube from lifeless chemicals, then it would be arguably feasible to claim that natural processes could do it also by chance. But natural processes have not been observed to duplicate any creative work of a living creature such as an arrowhead.

5. The Law of Mass Action teaches that chemical reactions always tend to move toward equilibrium. The chemical reactions that combine amino acids to form proteins are reversible. The energy source that builds them up will also tear them down.

If the balance of water is on the protein side of the reaction, the protein will break down into amino acids. Breaking down (Second Law) is certain unless the building up is directed by intelligence and design. Even then, the Second Law eventually wins. Chemical reactions seek equilibrium where nothing can happen. Living systems are highly unstable. An input of ordering energy from the environment by design will maintain stability in living systems for a while but eventually they succumb to the Second Law, equilibrium and death. Natural processes of science do not have attributes of organization and design. These come from a transcending intelligence such as a man or God.

6. The Law of Inertia declares that an object at rest or in motion will remain at rest or in motion unless acted upon by an outside force. What was the outside force that caused the so-called Big Bang explosion and gave us something out of



nothing or near nothing? Physics and chemistry have no answer.

7. The Law of Angular Momentum declares that radial motion as produced in an exploding bomb or the so-called Big Bang explosion cannot change into orbital or circular motion or condense into lumps in space without an outside force. What is the outside force that gave us condensing, spinning planets and revolving galaxies? Physics and chemistry have no answer.

8. The Law of Probability denies that time, chance and environment can explain origins. Leading scientists admit that the probability of just one specific protein, the building block of a living cell, arising in this manner is about one in 10^{520} while thousands are needed to produce a simple form of life. Compare that probability to 10^{130} the number of atoms needed to fill our universe from end to end. Try the following experiment:

Place aspirins on a tabletop (*right*) and then subject them to an influx of random energy from a massage vibrator applied to the tabletop. Evolution theory says that, if given enough time, the aspirin arrangements will change from top to bottom. Do you believe that? Of course not. Would you say, "Ridiculous?" Of course you would. Would you believe just the opposite order, bottom to top? Certainly! The Second Law ordains that an influx of random energy into a system will always cause random effects.

9. The Fossil Record is supposedly the historical record of evolution. But nowhere does the fossil record show an undisputed transition of one kind of organism evolving into a more complex one. There should be literally millions of them if macroevolution were true.

10. Evolution Requires Billions of Years of Time for which there is no empirical proof. The most popular natural clock is the decay of Uranium 238 into Lead 206 that is assumed to give an age of 4.5 billion years for the earth. For

this to be true, several assumptions have to be made:

1. The clock was set to zero (no lead) at the start.
2. No uranium leached into or out of the sample during all that time.
3. No lead leached into or out of the sample during all that time.
4. No catastrophic events occurred which would reset the clock.
5. The decay rate has remained constant during all that time.

None of these assumptions is reasonable for a creationist. His initial conditions and subsequent processes would differ. Who decides whose assumptions are correct? Creationists do not accept a majority vote of atheists claiming to be scientists.

There are scores of natural clocks and only a few give a long age for the earth while many of them using the same present processes of physics and chemistry give a very young age for the earth. That a star is claimed without proof to be 4.5 billion light years away does not mean that the earth is that old. The speed of light at the moment of creation by unknown metaphysical processes may have been infinite and, therefore, irrelevant to the issue of age.

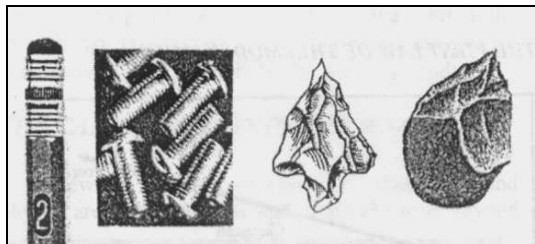
Creationists do not quibble about the real facts but contend that facts do not explain themselves. The meaning of facts or determination of truth in science is not decided by a majority vote. Creationists contend that their interpretation of the facts is compatible with the laws of science. They abide by empirical proof, which is always self-evident. Macroevolution makes a sham of the laws of science.

Lesson 4

There are thousands of statements on record by evolutionists that concede macroevolution has fatal flaws that preclude finding empirical proof. For instance, G.A. Kerkut, University of South Hampton, declares: ***“There are seven basic assumptions that are often not mentioned during discussions of evolution which by their nature are not capable of experimental verification.”*** (listed in later essay)

The evolutionists claim that evolution only means ***“change over time.”*** We all agree to that simple statement. Everything changes over time. Our sun loses energy, mountains erode, cars wear out, houses decay, and people grow old and die. This kind of change, downhill and degenerating, is the only kind of spontaneous change ever observed and is compliant with the Second Law of Thermodynamics cited above. But that same law disputes what the macro evolutionists really have in mind, a spontaneous change resulting in an uphill, increase in complexity of the universe from particles to atoms, lifeless chemicals, solar systems, galaxies, single-cell living organisms, multi-cellular animals, monkeys and, finally, people.

An increase in complexity of physical systems demands an input of intelligence



and design. For instance, without input of intelligent design and energy, natural



processes alone would never produce a pencil, metal screw, arrowhead or stone axe but evolutionists insist with a straight face that lifeless chemicals are responsible for trees to people without an input of intelligent design and directed energy.

Proud of their mastery of the calculus, the evolutionists really believe that this is true. But living systems require an Uncaused First Cause. An origin by a metaphysical process is the only rational explanation for an increase in complexity of natural systems.

Academic Freedom, Religious Liberty Are The Issues

The public schools do not mention the negative scientific evidence about evolution. ***Negative evidence is censored or blacked out.*** Proof: Were ***YOU*** ever exposed to the above evidence? Many teachers are not informed about the serious scientific objections to evolution and are unwitting conspirators to deceive your child. The wise parent will seek out the truth about this false doctrine and teach it to his child at home. The public school has violated the parents’ trust in matters of family values and has deceived them by leading their child

towards atheistic evolutionism. Better yet, teach everything at home. Christian parents wonder why their religious beliefs may be trashed by a government agency when there is no empirical proof to support the policy.

Are Vouchers the Answer?

There is much sentiment across this nation calling for tuition vouchers to be issued to parents who harbor passionate dissatisfaction with our public schools. To head off this likely outcome, school boards across the country could satisfy most parents simply by adopting the following model board policy:

- 1. No teacher in this school district is permitted to challenge, dispute, disparage or ridicule the religious beliefs of any student without support of empirical proof of truth.***
- 2. Controversial issues such as sex education, abortion, environment, macro-evolution, etc. may be discussed provided all scientific evidence and philosophical arguments, both positive and negative, are given equal treatment.***
- 3. Violation of this policy after warning will subject the offending teacher to dismissal.***

Only an evangelical evolutionist would need such a policy to bring him into compliance. A real scholar with intellectual honesty would honor the principles of academic freedom and religious liberty for students without a legal threat of dismissal. If a teacher is not willing to

present both positive and negative evidence, he should find a new vocation.

Christians do not argue with the facts of science but have their own ideas about the meaning of the facts. Meaning or truth cannot be empirically determined by a majority vote of atheist scientists. Christians are certain that there is no contradiction between true science and Christian doctrines and do not fear studying a controversial issue when all of the evidence is on the table. The suggested school board policy would guarantee even-handedness in interpreting the data.

The Earthly Paradise Of Jehovah Witnesses Have Sinners? By (Kent Heaton)

One of the fundamental teachings of the Jehovah Witness is the hope of living forever in a paradise on earth. The basic assumption is that 144,000 will live in Heaven and the remaining portion of saved individuals will reside on a “new earth” for ‘eternity.’ One of the proof texts used by Jehovah Witness is found in Isaiah 65:21-23. “And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.”

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful place to be as a garden paradise filled with righteous people without any sorrow or despair. Gathered before a river of water of life and finding healing from the leaves of the trees alongside it, the scene is one of purity, holiness and bright faces enjoying the unending presence of the eternal Father. This world is where no creature, whether a large beast or a tiny insect, will pose a danger to man – with one exception. The one creature that seems to spoil this tranquil scene is one God refers to as “the sinner.” Forgotten among the many passages used by Jehovah Witness to paint an eternal picture of a paradise earth is the verse preceding Isaiah 65:21-23. “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die a hundred years old; but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed.” (Isaiah 65:20)

The ‘New World Translation’ [Revised 1984] edition of the Jehovah Witness Bible uses this language to describe Isaiah 65:20 – “No

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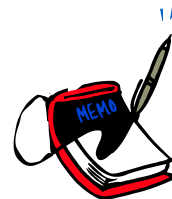
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more will there come to be a suckling a few days old from that place, neither an old man that does not fulfill his days; for one will die as a mere boy, although a hundred years of age; and as for the sinner, although a hundred years of age he will have evil called down upon him.” According to “Insight on the Scriptures, Volume 2” [Published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society], a sinner designates “those who practice sin or who have a reputation of sinning.” In this perfect world of peace and harmony, how could sinners reside?

Jehovah Witness teach that God will bring to an end to both wickedness and those who cause it. As in the days of Noah, the world will be cleansed of the bad people and their way of living. Following this the world will be inhabited by only good people. The earth will be made clean and all those who serve God will enjoy freedom from all who want to hurt and oppress them. Isaiah 65:20 says that sinners will reside in the same place that Jehovah Witness use as a picture of their paradise on earth. Why the contradiction?

The Bible never promises a paradise on earth. Peter proclaims “the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:12,13) This is the same promise Peter writes about in 1 Peter 1:4 as the inheritance that is reserved in heaven – not earth. John writes about the new heaven and new earth in Revelation 20 – 22. Sinners will be punished with everlasting fire. (Matthew 25:46) There will be no paradise on earth that you can live forever in. The Bible refutes the false doctrine of Jehovah Witness.