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Sermon Notes

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Almighty God: The Magnificent Science Teacher

Isaiah 28:23-29

Oxford University Museum of Natural History in England: statue of Sir Isaac Newton, chin in hand, pondering an apple at his feet. 1666 ... “If the force of gravity reaches to the top of the highest tree, why couldn’t it reach to the moon?”

flashes of insight have guided science along throughout human history.

Thomas Edison: **“Genius is one percent inspiration, and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”**

Isaiah 28: Flash of insight AND long careful development BOTH come from God

Summary: Scripture reveals that God teaches humanity the lessons of His glorious creation, whether they recognize Him or not. God has guided the development of human science in all areas, and to God be the glory for every truth that science teaches! However, in the 21st century, especially in the Western world, science has grown to be seen as a rival to God, and even a system by which God can be proven not to exist. How ironic! God gives us the weapons of wisdom and technology, and we turn them on Him as if to destroy Him!

Puritan pastor Cotton Mather said, **“Piety beget prosperity, and the daughter devoured the mother.”**

In a similar way, God beget science and the daughter is seeking to devour the Father of all wisdom.

BUT God gives flash of insight as a gift, and He does it to bless all humanity, and He does it through people who don’t even acknowledge Him.

Science, as a good gift from God, should never be feared. It is a platform for deeper worship of God (Psalm 8:3-4).

Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Science is a GOOD GIFT FROM GOD: By studying the physical universe, we can learn many things that are useful to the enriching of our lives: electronics, medicine, aviation, etc. Good science can point the way to the existence of God.

BUT science has its limitations. Science can make us proud and independent of God. SO God has willed that it is impossible for man's thinking to lead to Him and to salvation. (1 Corinthians 1:21)

It is not by science that our souls will be saved. Faith operates in a realm HIGHER than science, not contradictory to it; science cannot falsify faith claims, therefore cannot make any statements about the truth of those claims. God creates the laws of science, but is not subject to them.

So, our purpose here is to give glory to God for all that science has learned... to say GOD IS THE TEACHER of everything that man has ever learned... I want to take back the glory that science has sought to rob from God!!

I. Understanding the Passage in Context

A. Context of Isaiah 28

1. Judgment of God on Israel for all her sins... Drunkenness, idolatry
2. Vs. 9-10 Israel's leaders mock the prophetic word...sav lasav
3. So... God will speak another language

Isaiah 28:11 Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people

4. Ultimately they reject the "Rock": God's Messiah, Jesus Christ

Isaiah 28:16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

5. Vs. 15: “Covenant with Death” ... to survive until storm is over

6. But it will FAIL:

Isaiah 28:18 Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it.

7. BUT at the end, God speaks a parable of comfort:

Isaiah 28:23-29 Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. ²⁴ When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? ²⁵ When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cummin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? ²⁶ His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. ²⁷ Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cummin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a stick. ²⁸ Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it. ²⁹ All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.

8. Straightforward lesson: If the farmer knows when to stop plowing and harrowing the land, how much more does God know when to stop crushing His people and to start rebuilding them?

B. Details of the Parable

1. A call for attention... common to “wisdom literature”

Isaiah 28:23 Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say.

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares

Proverbs 1:33 whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm

2. The lesson of the farmer’s knowledge

Isaiah 28:24 When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil?

- a. Plowing breaks up the hard soil and prepares it for the planting
- b. a metal-pointed stick pulled by an ox; finding better metals for the tip; bronze too soft; iron was much better
- c. then the harrowing of soil; heavy logs chained together, each with sharp pieces of metal... levels soil, prepares for seeds
- d. After all this work was done, then it was time to plant the seed

Isaiah 28:25 When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cummin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field?

- e. Each seed is planted in its own way... very fine black cumin seeds are scattered all over surface; but larger seeds, like wheat and barley, planted carefully in marked rows and plots
- f. Spelt planted at the borders, tall, marks limits, prevents intruders
- g. the SCIENCE of the agriculture
- h. GOD KNEW ALL OF THIS BEFORE THE FARMER DID!!
God is the one who TAUGHT IT to the farmer

Isaiah 28:26 His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.

- 3. Logic of the passage: if the farmer knows when to STOP PLOWING and HARROWING the soil, HOW MUCH MORE does God know when to stop judging His people!!!
- 4. God is a wise farmer who knows when “Enough is enough”!!
 - a. The farmer doesn’t plow CONTINUALLY and GO ON ENDLESSLY harrowing the soil
 - b. So God doesn’t go on endlessly breaking up the soil of His people’s hard hearts and He certainly doesn’t go on judging His people with harsh judgments until there is not a survivor left

Isaiah 1:9 Unless the LORD Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.

5. This is the same point in the second part of the parable... the THRESHING at harvest time

Isaiah 28:27-28 Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cummin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a stick. ²⁸ Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it.

- a. From plowing and planting, the parable moves to threshing after the harvest
- b. The same techniques cannot be used on small grains as one would use on larger grains
- c. With wheat and barley, animal tethered to central post and driven around and around on a pile of cut grain dragging heavy cart or sled w. bits of stone or metal embedded
- d. threshing separates the kernels from the husks
- e. BUT with the smaller grains, you do not do this... those smaller grains would be easily crushed and lost in that kind of threshing
- f. So... instead of all this, smaller grains like cumin and caraway are beaten with a flail—a stick with a rod attached to it
- g. Isaiah's point in the second half is the same... the farmer knows 1) what to do to thresh; and 2) when to stop the threshing or the flailing...
- h. When ENOUGH is ENOUGH!!!
- i. The farmer knows these things because GOD TAUGHT IT TO HIM!!

Isaiah 28:29 All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.

- j. If the farmer knows how to stop threshing when the grain is ready, HOW MUCH MORE does God, who is “wonderful in counsel, magnificent in wisdom” know when to stop threshing His people
- k. When the judgments on His people have run their course, God knows enough to stop

Isaiah 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

C. Application for Us

1. God is VERY WISE in plowing our hearts and threshing the fruit of our lives
2. The plowing up of your hard heart is God’s business... and He knows exactly what to do to bring it about
3. He is the skilled farmer of your heart

1 Corinthians 10:13 God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

Peter speaks twice of God’s wisdom in allowing us to suffer “for a little while”:

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 5:8-10 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, ... sufferings. ¹⁰ And God ... after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

4. So God carefully measures out our trials and our temptations, and when He has achieved His purpose, He ENDS it... He doesn't go on plowing forever; He doesn't go on threshing endlessly
5. This is the meaning of the passage in context
6. BUT there is an important transferable principle here... God, the instructor of the human race... God the great SCIENCE TEACHER

D. Our Context in 21st Century America

1. Science has come to dominate our culture in ways scarcely imaginable two hundred years ago
2. For centuries before the Industrial Revolution, daily life went on as it had for millennia... plowing, sowing, tending, weeding, harvesting, threshing, grinding, storing, eating, surviving
3. Industrial Revolution: we began to fall in love with science... science yielded amazing insights which seemed to improve life
4. Science flourished where Christianity was taught... God the great LAWGIVER, the CONSTANT PROMISE-KEEPER

Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

C.S. Lewis:

Men became scientific because they expected law in nature and they expected law in nature because they believed in a Lawgiver

5. Regions of the world dominated by animism or other world views (like Hinduism or Buddhism, or even Islam) did not keep pace
6. The West grew more and more confident in SCIENCE

E. The Scientific Method Described

1. Make an **observation** from the surrounding world ("This portion of the field of corn is taller and healthier looking than the rest.")

2. Ask a **question** (“Why is this corn better than the rest?”)... as you investigate, you find that the a cow dumped manure near this corn, but not anywhere else
3. Formulate a **hypothesis** to answer the question: “Maybe cow manure helps the corn to grow strong and healthy.”
4. Craft an **experiment** to test the hypothesis: “Next planting season, I will plant this portion of the field with manure, and that portion in the same way I always have.”
5. **Analyze the data** from the experiment: at harvest time, you see conclusively that the corn is much taller and healthier looking
6. Draw a tested **conclusion** from the data: cow manure helps corn to grow healthy
7. Settle the conclusion into the **larger body of truth** you already have: incorporate this new insight into all the other things you have already learned about growing corn
8. **Publish** your findings to other people for their testing and use. Tell other farmers about it

F. But Now, the Scientific Method is Coming Back to Devour the God Who Gave It

1. Especially since Darwin published *The Origin of Species* in 1859... scientists have become **BOLDER** in saying **everything in the universe can be answered by science**

Peter Atkins, Professor of Chemistry at Oxford: “Science... emerged from religion. As science discarded its chrysalis to become its present butterfly, it took over the (garden). There is no reason to suppose that science cannot deal with every aspect of existence.” [quoted in Lennox, p. 8]

Nobel Laureate Steven Weinberg: “The world needs to wake up from the long nightmare of religion... Anything we scientists can do to weaken the hold of religion should be done, and may in fact be our greatest contribution to civilization.” [Lennox, 8]

2. Richard Dawkins wrote a book called *The God Delusion* in which he argued that **everything in the universe can be accounted for by the blind laws of physics**, and that religion is not merely a delusion, but a dangerous one

Dawkins: “I am utterly fed up with the respect we have been brainwashed into bestowing upon religion.”

3. Christians backed into a corner when dealing with science
4. Atheistic scientists claim that people resort to gods or a God when they don't understand something; this is the “**god of the gaps**” theory... where there are gaps in human knowledge, we stick god in to fill those gaps. Modern atheistic scientists in effect say they see where science is going ... someday there will be NO GAPS... until then, let's have the confidence to say there is NO GOD
5. But this is SHEER ARROGANCE... if I can study some laws of cause and effect, then there is NO GOD! Or if some superstitious people have ascribed lightning to a javelin thrown by the god Zeus, then we learn that it is caused by static electricity when clouds rub against each other, THERE IS NO GOD that made the clouds
6. Isaiah 28 suggests that God has been whispering in the ears of human beings (call them scientists) from the beginning
7. Every scientific fact in this universe has been TAUGHT BY GOD
8. To God be the glory for the physical universe AND the wisdom to understand it... BOTH are God's
9. God is the greatest science teacher in human history!!!

II. God Teaches Agriculture to Farmers

A. Clear Statements: vs. 26, 29

***Isaiah 28: 26* His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.**

1. The Hebrew words are very potent
2. The science of agriculture is the subject; God is the teacher, the farmer is the pupil

3. It literally says “For...” (the reason why the farmer acts as he does with plowing and harrowing) is that GOD INSTRUCTS HIM RIGHTLY... rightly = “according to right principle” ; the Hebrew word is the same as that usually associated with JUSTICE, a LEGAL JUDGMENT; laws of science a matter of “justice” like laws of morality for a King
4. Same thing also at the end of the chapter concerning threshing and harvesting various types of grains:

Isaiah 28: 29 All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.

B. Back to the Garden of Eden: God Teaches His Son Adam

1. Genesis 2: the special condition of the crops

Genesis 2:4-5 When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens--⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground

2. Special plants needed human cultivation... genetic code already established on third day of creation when God made seed-bearing plants... but secrets of farming waited for man
3. A plain example: CORN
4. So, God created a man and put him in the Garden of Eden...

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

5. “to serve & protect”... **how would he know what to do?**

Isaiah 28:26 His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.

6. Just as Jesus would later say:

John 5:19-20 I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.

7. agricultural science was the first discipline God the science teacher taught the human race... But it wouldn't be the last

III. God Teaches All Science to Humanity

A. Science as a Subset of a Love Relationship with God

Matthew 22:37-38 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

B. A World Filled with God's Glory

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 6:3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

C. The Tragic Exchange of Idolatry... Polluting all Science

1. God put clear evidence of Himself in creation

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made

BUT men "suppress the truth" that God exists... they HOLD IT DOWN in wickedness

Romans 1:18 men who suppress the truth by their wickedness

Atheist Francis Crick (co-discoverer of DNA molecule): "Biologists must CONSTANTLY KEEP IN MIND that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved." [Lennox, 77]

Richard Dawkins: "Living objects look designed, they look overwhelmingly as though they're designed." [Lennox, 77]

Romans 1:21-23 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and

their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen.

YET... God still willed to teach the human race science, even though we do not acknowledge Him!!

D. People Discovered Scientific Truths... and Used them In Rebellion

Genesis 11:3-4 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Human technology intrinsic to our SOARING AMBITION and rebellion against God

God's appraisal of our capabilities:

Genesis 11:6-7 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Yet, the implications of our text are powerful: it was GOD who taught them the advanced ceramics, the advanced building techniques; God embeds principles in His creation, and opens them up gradually to people to use

E. God Gives Wisdom to Solomon to be a Scientist

1 Kings 4:33-34 [Solomon] described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. ³⁴ Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

1 Kings 10:1 *When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.*

Ecclesiastes 7:25 *So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly.*

Ecclesiastes 7:27 *"Look," says the Teacher, "this is what I have discovered: "Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things..."*

F. Jesus Speaking Scientifically

1. Defeating anxiety by scientific enquiry

Matthew 6:26-31 Look at [lit. "study carefully"] the birds of the air: *they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious*

2. Discussing the scientific study of weather

Matthew 16:2-3 *"When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.*

G. Bottom Line: God is the Teacher of Science

H. God Teaches Science to People Who Give Him NO CREDIT... even to Atheists

[to Cyrus the Great] *Isaiah 45:3-7 I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.... I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, ⁶ so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.*

1. So God will open the treasures of scientific insights to people, though they do not acknowledge him... so God teaches ATHEISTIC SCIENTISTS VALID INSIGHTS
2. These are “common grace blessings”... like the sunshine and the rain:

Matthew 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

3. God does this so that perhaps people would see His glory in creation and love Him and serve Him
4. But Romans 1 teaches us that sinful man “*suppresses the truth in unrighteousness*” and “*worships and serves created things rather than the Creator*”
5. The NUMBER ONE CREATED THING people worship is themselves... their own wisdom, cleverness, scientific insights
6. Later in the same chapter, God says He HIDES HIMSELF in all of this!!

Isaiah 45:15 Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel.

I. God Uses the Scientific Advances to Control Human History

1. Deeper issue: by giving technological insights to one people and not to another, God orchestrates all of human history
2. gunpowder ... steel swords... free market economy... in this way, one nation RISES ABOVE the others

Psalm 75:6-7 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. ⁷ But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

J. So... as Science Advances, the “Eureka” Moments Have All Been God’s

1. Eureka = Greek for “I have found it”

Famous story: Greek King Hiero ... jewelers embezzling gold by mixing gold with lesser metals; Archimedes given the problem of figuring out if his crown was pure gold WITHOUT DESTROYING it!! bath tub... water overflowed... “specific gravity” ... he shouted “EUREKA” ... “I have found it!!”

Isaiah 29 would adjust the statement to “He has taught me!!!” better than “I have found it”

All the “eureka” moments are covered by our text!!!

2. Edison speaks of the 1% inspiration, 99% perspiration... God is Lord of BOTH...
3. Science Magazine’s website had the “Top Ten ‘Aha Moments’”
 - a. #10: the Post-It Note...
 - b. #9: Velcro...
 - c. #1 Penicillin ... Alexander Fleming...

Albert Einstein In 1907, age 28, working in the patent office in Bern, Switzerland, when, “a breakthrough came suddenly one day.” His

thoughts wandered to, **“If a man falls freely he would not feel his weight.”** SHOCKED AT INSIGHT!! By linking accelerated motion and gravity, Einstein eventually saw masterwork, the general theory of relativity... EIGHT YEARS working out mathematical details

4. Flashes of insight, followed by the rational process to develop it...
1% inspiration, and 99% perspiration

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR ALL OF IT!!!

IV. Science is a Basis for Eternal Worship

A. Now... Once the Gospel Has Done Its Work

1. Knowledgeable of theology in creation: Romans 1

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made

2. Humbled: Psalm 8:3-4

Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

3. Worshipful: Psalm 104... creation Psalm touches all creation...
universe, sky, weather, seas & dry land, beasts, birds, fish, man...
God provides for and orchestrates everything... at the end of it:

Psalm 104:31-34 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works-- ³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke. ³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. ³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

Good science should lead us to meditate on God's wonders in creation and PRAISE HIM!!!

B. For Eternity: New Heavens and New Earth

1. Back to Habakkuk 2:14

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

2. The New Heavens and New Earth

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

3. Revelation 21

Revelation 21:23-24 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

4. Isaiah 9:7... always learning how great God is!!

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

V. The Limitations of Science

A. Science Cannot Produce Faith

Luke 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation

The scientific enquiry cannot lead us to God!!!

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

B. Science Cannot Disprove Faith

1. There is nothing science can do to touch the realm of faith

2. For scientists to say, based on scientific data gathered from the physical world, that there is no spiritual world is **nonsense**
3. What experiment could be done to prove or disprove the existence of God's heavenly throne?
4. Faith soars ABOVE science, accepting all of its right conclusions as taught by God, but also accepting the Bible's instruction about the INVISIBLE WORLD as well

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

C. Science is Not God's Master

1. The miracles of Jesus show that He is above the Laws of Nature
2. He created them, and upholds them... but He does not need to abide by them!! He is their King, not the other way around

John 6:19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.

3. BUT He still got into the boat and rode the rest of the way!
4. At His resurrection, He once again showed that the Laws of Nature did not apply to Him
 - a. John 20: Comes through walls into locked rooms
 - b. Luke 24: Eats bread and disappears before their eyes
 - c. Acts 1: Ascends to heaven until a cloud hides Him
5. But He still upholds physical laws for us in the general way...

D. Science Can Make Us Arrogant... Not Thankful

1 Corinthians 8:1 We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

1 Corinthians 8:2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

The universe is IMMENSELY MORE COMPLEX than we can possibly imagine!!! A true scientist should be humble about all he doesn't know, not arrogant about all God has graciously taught him

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

VI. Applications

A. The Greatest Knowledge: The Gospel

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED as the greatest wisdom the world has ever seen

B. Understand Main Idea Here: Not Science but God's Self-Restraint

1. As the farmer knows when to stop plowing and start planting; as the thresher knows when to stop beating the grain, so God knows when to stop bringing judgments on His people
2. God carefully measures out our pains and sorrows and chastisements

Psalm 103:13-14 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

3. So also God knows how to measure out our temptations and trials

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

C. Give God Glory for Science!! True Science is Not God's Enemy but God's Creation

1. All knowledge belongs to God
2. God has woven wisdom into every atom of the universe, into every complex physical system or biological system
3. God has created man in His image to study and see the glory of God in creation
4. God has led man by the hand to discover the principles of His creation

D. Do Not Be Intimidated by Arrogant, Atheistic Scientists

1. God cannot be mocked... though many intelligent people mock God or mock religion
2. Pray that God would open their eyes to see Him in what they are studying
3. Be willing to stand courageously for God even in the face of evolution, and the complexity of science... know that every bit of science the genius possesses, God MADE the knowledge to begin with, and TAUGHT IT TO that person
4. Seek to win these people to Christ!! There are many great scientists who have become Christians... no one is beyond the power of the gospel!!

E. The Future of Science: Eternity Studying God's Glory in the New Heavens and New Earth

1. Rejoice that the New Heavens and New Earth will shine with the glory of God in Christ
2. Rejoice that our minds will be free from idolatry
3. Rejoice that we will then study what God has made and give Him FULL GLORY for it

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.