

Christianity and science deniers

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Introduction

In the latest issue of the **Skeptical Inquirer** magazine is an article by Lee McIntyre titled: “**How to talk to a science denier.**” (2023, v. 47, n. 5, p. 50-55) His opening statement is: “You don’t convince someone who doesn’t hold their beliefs based on evidence by giving them more evidence.”

I have come to realize that what he says is true in spite of more than 100 articles on my website that gives more evidence in support of the models that I believe in because no denier seems to pay any attention to what I say. **ARTICLES IN OPPOSITION TO CREATIONISM** [OPPOSITION TO CREATIONISM \(csun.edu\)](#)

McIntyre points out at the end of his article that “to make a scientific claim is to be willing to change one’s mind on the basis of new evidence.” That is, scientists take “liars seriously. We actually listen to their evidence. And when it does not measure up, we say so.” He goes on to say that we need to explain how science works. That is: “What it means to be a scientist is to be willing to admit in advance that one’s theory

could be overturned if the evidence were sufficient and to specify what that evidence should be. That is the real difference between a scientist and a denier.”

Finally, he points out: “What makes a denier a denier isn’t simply their disbelief in the scientific consensus or their lack of accurate empirical information or even their poor reasoning. It’s their attitude. Their stubborn conviction that no new evidence can change their minds because the only people they trust have already told them that they are right.”

It has been suggested to me that when dealing with a denier, I need to start out by saying something like: “Perhaps I am wrong, but here is what I believe on the basis of the evidence I have, and then ask the denier two questions: (1) what do you see wrong with that? and (2) what is the evidence you have to support your belief?”

But when I use that approach, I find what happens is what is reported by Robert Trivers in an article that he wrote titled: “**The Better to Fool Others.**” He said: “When different persons are presented with facts on two sides of a position, each person becomes even more strident in their views. The information gave each person facts to support his or her own position. Again, while they thought they were evaluating the information objectively, they were not. Each group distorted the information to align with prior beliefs.” (**Discover** magazine, June, 2013, p. 12-13).

In other words, the denier just digs in his or her heels to continue to believe what he or she wants to believe.

Recently, I have been communicating with a devout Christian, trying to convince him that Genesis 1 was not written to be a science textbook. That is, Moses did not write Genesis 1 to describe how the universe, Earth, sun, moon, planets, animals and plants were formed but to give good theology. Nearby people in tribes thought these were gods to be feared and that they were bad, angry, and out to get them. For that reason, these tribes needed to build altars and make sacrifices to them. Moses gave them the kind of theology that they needed to hear. That is, there is only one God and these things are what God made and they are all GOOD!

I then pointed out to this devout Christian that what is written in Genesis 1 is based on the ancient science of a 3-tier universe (**Figure 1**) that we now know is not true on the basis of modern science knowledge.

2. Ancient Science (3-Tier Universe)

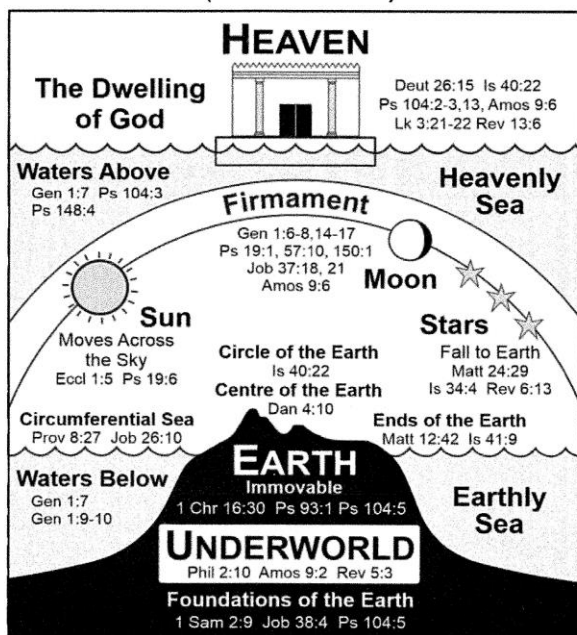


Figure 1. Three-tier universe.

This information and observation made no difference to him, and he insisted that the Bible is the “Perfect Word of God” and needs to be interpreted “as it is written.” He cited more than 25 places where the Bible says “as it is written.” He then gave me a brotherly love warning by the Power of the Holy Spirit, quoting the following two verses:

But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shall be condemned. (Matt. 12:36-37)

I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Rev. 22:18-19)

So, this devout Christian makes a strong argument. Who can argue with such scriptural verses? He insists that I need to spend my total life worshiping Jesus and God and not to spend my time studying modern science which he says comes from Satan and sinful humans.

Response to devout Christians and science deniers

But my answer to him and science deniers is that the Bible was written in a time and culture that totally differs with the time and culture in which humans now live. No microscopes or

telescopes were available to the early Old and New Testament people, and they did not have the need to present good theology that has scientific accuracy as is required in today's world.

Therefore, we need to read the Bible with a modern understanding using wisdom that God has given to us in the 21st century.

Jesus said many times: "You have heard it said... ..but I say to you..." which some Christians seem not to pay attention to. He also added the phrase to one of the most important laws in the Torah: "with all your mind." Therefore, Jesus expects us to use our mind and apply wisdom in understanding what God has also given us, not only the Bible/theology, but also science/nature. Both come from God and are true.

Jesus also said to His disciples following His resurrection:

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. (John 16:12)

That is, His disciples would have no idea what galaxies, protons, and neutron stars were, and if He started telling them how the universe was really made, that the Earth was not flat but a sphere, and that the Earth went around the sun and not the sun around the Earth, they would have thought Him to be crazy.

This devout Christian also quoted to me (2 Timothy 3:16)

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and training in righteousness."

But this is "training in righteousness" and not "training in science."

So, my intent in writing this article is to point out to the reader that in dealing with science deniers and well-meaning Christians, what is needed is that we listen to them with patience and love, but to continue to speak the truth to them because **TRUTH IS IMPORTANT!!!** And we should not worry about changing their minds but to leave that changing to the Holy Spirit.