

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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### **Did Moses Get The Creation Account Wrong?**

Starting next week some university professors will stand up and ask for a show of hands of which students believe the Bible is the word of God. "The Bible is full of errors!" they'll say. "Look! I can't even go past the first page without finding a huge one. The account of creation - light is created, marking the first day... but it is not until the fourth day that the sun and stars are created!! The author, Moses, clearly had no concept of the solar system and got it wrong!"

Never having discussed this in Bible classes, and caught unprepared, at this point some of our youth seriously question their faith and turn into agnostics.

Not having been an eye-witness to the creation, we cannot have a firm answer because God did not supply the details, BUT the ancients surely understood that light comes from the sun and they themselves must have been perplexed at these verses. It is not the way someone would have made it up. Moses wrote down the oral tradition word for word, resisting the urge to "correct" what did not make sense even based on his limited knowledge of the universe.

Light has other sources other than the sun and stars. The sun burns brightly and puts out a wide spectrum of light. It is a big ball of hydrogen that has so much pressure at its core that it internally explodes in the same way as a hydrogen bomb. The sun (and other stars) we see are actually like viewing huge nuclear weapons continually exploding - thankfully at a great distance away.

Before those gas balls are lit and become stars they start out shapeless blobs, called nebula, and then form in spheres. Before they explode into a star they still put out light in the infrared spectrum. This may be the light source mentioned in Genesis on the first day.

Jupiter is a great example; it is a big ball of hydrogen gas that is not big enough to have its inner core explode. Jupiter, if larger, would have been our solar system's second sun. Jupiter puts out infrared light. Our sun would have put out infrared light while being formed prior to it exploding brilliantly on the fourth day as we also see it today.

Again, we were not there, but as we discover more about the universe, it does seem to make verses like the brief Genesis creation account make clearer sense.

In Athens during the first century, picture some toga-clad philosopher asking if any of the student audience were followers of "The Way".

"You are ignorant and backward", he would scold them. "Just look at the ancient texts you hold as the word of your god, it does not make scientific sense." The learned teacher mockingly quotes from the book of Job 26:7 "God stretches out His hand and hangs the earth upon nothing." The other students laugh at the thought

of somebody actually believing that the sturdy earth is not resting on something.

Also imagine earlier generations of Jews and then Christians reading Judges 10 giving the account of when God gave extra daylight in order for the Israelites to defeat their enemies.

The moon was up in the sky on that day. We now understand that the earth would need to stop rotating in order for the sun to appear stopped in the sky (and no, people would not fling off into space when the earth stopped rotating). The Judges account accurately describes what the people would have observed when the earth stopped rotating - not just the sun, but that BOTH the sun and moon appeared to stand still in the sky. An ancient fiction writer would have missed that detail.

God did not give us the Bible as a scientific text to explain how His creation functions. He gave us His Word so that we can understand what we need to do to be saved and live eternally with Him.

We may not understand everything about the light that is mentioned in the opening verses of Genesis, but we are told that the day will come when the sources of light that we now observe will come to an end.

“There will be no more night, and they will not need any light from lamps or the sun, because the Lord God will shine on them” (Revelation 22:5).

No, Moses did not get the creation account wrong because he was not the real author. God’s Word continues to stand up to the skeptics of every generation.

- Greg Perkins

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# Pearls From Proverbs

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold (Prov. 22:1).

We occasionally hear it said about someone, "He is out to make a name for himself." We understand that to mean that he is seeking notoriety or fame. A big name is not necessarily a good name.

## Value of Good Reputation

To have a good name is to possess a good reputation. The name which one earns for himself through righteous deeds is far more important than the name on his birth certificate.

It is said of Jesus during His youthful years, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). What a contrast that is with some of today's youth who care not about being in good standing with either God or man!

Cornelius, the centurion, despite his being a Gentile, was "of good report among all the nation of the Jews" (Acts 10:22).

When seven men were about to be chosen to minister to the temporal needs of certain widows among the disciples in Jerusalem, it was recommended that they be men "of honest report," or "of good reputation" (NASB).

One of the qualifications of a bishop is that "he must have a good report of them which are without" (1 Tim. 3:7). A man with a bad reputation cannot be expected to exert a good influence.

To have a truly good name is a genuine asset. One should guard his reputation against whatever might ruin it. A good past makes an excellent future reference.

## Reputation and Riches

There are several reasons why a good reputation is to be chosen in preference to riches.

(1) A good name will secure what money cannot buy. Some who are loaded with wealth have a bad name, and no amount of money can purchase a good reputation for them. People trust someone who has a good name. The accumulation of wealth does not make one more trustworthy.

(2) A good name has a higher quality than material wealth. Riches may bring someone great fame, but there is a difference between great fame and a good name. A good name is "a name for good things with God and good people" (Matthew Henry).

(3) A good name enables one to do more good than riches without a good name can do. A good reputation opens doors of opportunity. Esteem and respect are worth more than silver and gold.

Abraham had a good name and great riches. God promised him, "I will bless thee, and make thy name great" (Gen. 12:2). And the Bible describes him as being "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold" (Gen. 13:2). The point of our proverb is that if one must choose between a good reputation and riches, the former should be chosen. Moffatt translates Proverbs 22:1 as follows: "Reputation is a better choice than riches; esteem is more than money."

## Reputation and Character

Reputation refers to one's overall qualities as judged by people in general; the estimation in which one is held. Of course, men sometimes err in their estimation of other people. It seems likely that the proverb is referring to a good name as one is judged in the eyes of others who are good and righteous people.

Character refers to the sum of distinctive qualities belonging to an individual. One's reputation is not always a true measure of his character. However, a good name that is based on good character brings goodwill and admiration from all who value goodness.

Both character and reputation are important. Every child of God must endeavor to develop the best qualities of character, and he should try to keep a good name.

Many things can destroy a good reputation. Sometimes vicious people deliberately set out on a character assassination mission. The slanderer differs from a murderer only in that he kills the reputation rather than the body. A careless and foolish act can seriously damage one's reputation. White lies often leave black marks on a reputation. It takes a very short time to lose a good reputation but a long, long time to regain it.

"A good name is better than precious ointment. . . ." (Eccl. 7:1). If you have a good reputation, be careful to protect and defend it. And do not be guilty of saying or doing anything that would damage the good name of someone else.

- Irvin Himmel, Guardian of Truth, 11/6/1986

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## The Forces Behind Poverty

Governor of Oklahoma, FRANK KEATING (1995-2003), said: I asked Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma University to examine the question of why Oklahoma was poor. And they came back with something quite extraordinary. These economists, that you never see do this, turned the page and said, "*You have too much divorce, too many out-of-wedlock births, too much drug abuse and violence.*" The issue of divorce was paramount to economists as an impoverishing challenge.

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- "Happiness can be thought, sought, or caught, but never bought!"
  - "Some people are so "great," it is hard for them to humble!"
  - "They who leave the light of the Word and follow the light within them, as some say, prefer the shining of the glow-worm before the sun!" - Thomas Watson
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**THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: "*How Do I Know What God Wants Me To Do?*" (Heb. 1:1-2); Sunday evening: "*There's Joy in Trials?*" (text: Jas. 1:2-12).