

Science Religion in the service of Humanity

Editor-in-Chief

Ade P. Dopamu

Editors

Olu Obafemi

F. A. Oladele

O. B. Oloyede

Sylvia O. Malomo

R. W. Omotoye

R. A. Olaoye



CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

Preface

SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY

EDITOR —IN— CHIEF

Ade P. Dopamu

EDITORS

Olu Obafemi ● F.A. Oladele
O.B. Oloyede ● Sylvia O. Malomo
R.W. Omotoye ● R.A. Olaoye

Published by

Local Society Initiative (LSI) and
The Nigerian Association for the Study and
Teaching of Religion and Natural SCIENCES
(NASTRENS)

University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

© Local Society Initiative and NASTRENS, 2006

First Published 2006

ISBN 978 - 978 - 48449 - 0 - 1

All Rights Reserved

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	vi
Preface.....	viii
About the Editors and Contributors.....	xiv
Science and Religion in the Service of Humanity	
– M.O. OYAWOYE	1
Science Goes Better with God: Christian Perspective	
– ADEOYE ADENIYI	15
Aspects of Quranic Hints to Science and Technology: A Case	
Study of Alexander the Great	
– R.D. ABUBAKRE	30
Communication and the Universality of the Gospel in Yorubaland	
– ROTIMI OMOTOYE	38
Dance in the Service of Humanity	
– JELEEL OLASUNKANMI OJUADE	53
The Human Skeleton Derived from Ifa Corpus	
– BADE AJAYI and T.A. SANNI	61
Language, Science and Religion: Three Mutual Factors in the	
Service of Humanity	
– STEPHEN BILLY OLAJIDE	73
Views of Physics Teachers in Ilorin Metropolis on the Impact	
of Religion on the Way the Applications of Physics are Utilized	
– ESTHER O. OMOSEWO	89
The Impact of the Teaching of Jesus on Humanity	
– A.E. OGUNTOYINBO	102
The Age of Rocks and the Rock of Ages: A Dialogical	
Analysis of the Relationship Between Science and Religion	
– IGBOIN BENSON	122
Scientific and Biblical Evidence of God in the World Around Us	
– F.A. OLADELE	143
An Analytical Study of the Concept of Sickness in Modern	
Science and Traditional Faith of the Yoruba in Nigeria	
– R.A. OLAOYE	153

God, Nature and the Environment in Yoruba Perspective – ABIOLA T. DOPAMU	164
Magic and Science in Yorubaland: Toward Africa's Technological Development – PIUS OYENIRAN ABIOJE	181
A Critical Reflection on Science and Religion with Particular Reference to Genetic Engineering and the Christian Faith – EMIOLA NIHINLOLA	197
The Contribution of Science and Religion to the Feeding of Humanity: The Nigerian Experience – A.A. ADESIYUN	210
The Interaction Between Science and Religion Among the Yoruba of South Western Nigeria: A Therapeutic Appraisal – E.O. BABALOLA	219
An Exegetical Study of Leviticus 3: 1-5 and Its Relevance to Health – C.O. OGUNKUNLE	230
Life and Healing Processes in Urhobo Traditional Medicine – J.O. UBRURHE	241
A Philosophical Appraisal of Smallpox in Yoruba Traditional Beliefs and Western Medicine – OGUNTOLA LAGUDA	256
The Writings of Ellen G. White and the Medical Science in the Service of Humanity – P.O. AMANZE	264
Spiritual Healing and Science: A Christian Perspective – B.A. OGUNBODEDE	285
Religion in the Service of Humanity: A Case Study of the Early Christian Ministry to the Widow – TAIYE ADAMOLEKUN	292
Drawing the Sword in Modern Babylon: The Religious, Scientific and Legal Dimension – RADHEED J. L. IJAODOLA	305

Interactions between Science and Religion: A Biblical Perspective – L.B. AKANDE	330
An Appraisal of the Principles and Practice of Personal Hygiene in Islam – A.S. AGBOOLA	335
Edo Eschatology and the Scientific Cosmos – A.G. ALAMU	346
Science and Religion: A Moral Evaluation – S. AWONIYI	361
The Influence of Religion on Contraception and Fertility – PATRICK A. EDEWOR	373
Science and Qur'an in Human Reproduction: Any Meeting Point in Human Unity? – M.O. ADENIYI	381
A Sociological Analysis of Experiences of Selected Jama'atu Qur'an in Hu Jama'atut Tabligh in the Nigerian Society – LATEEF. F. OLADIMEJI	390
Islam and Astrological Science: Marital Issues in Astrological Works of Shaykh Tukhi, as a Case Study – A.O. HASHIM	401
Science Goes Better with God: Islamic Perspective – O.B. OLOYEDE	409
A Re-Evaluation of the Relationship Between Islam and Natural Science: Human Embryonic and Fetal Development as a Case Study – ADEGOKE KAZEEM ADEKUNLE	429
Religion and the Prevention of HIV/AIDS – ROTIMI FAKEYE	439

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGION: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

AKANDE L.B

Introduction

Today, science and religion should not be seen as two opposing factors. The duo have been realized to complement one another for man's sustenance. What then are Science and Religion? Science to a scientist is an intellectual activity through which man seeks to understand nature. To a layman, science is more or less everything that has made life more comfortable to man. But Abdullahi defines it as "activities culminating into a testable, falsifiable and verifiable body of knowledge"¹

In this respect, science to this writer, either applied or technological involving data application, principles and theories of different fields of science for the simple reasons of supplying answers or solutions to man's problems.

Religion on the other hand, though, a difficult task to define because different people perceive it in a different way. Thus, it could be defined from sociological, philosophical, psychological or theological approach. But in whatever approach it may be defined, all the definitions must recognize and appreciate the presence of Divine or Supernatural being higher than man, which is the subject of worship. Hence, religion from our point of view will be defined as one's understanding, reverencing and obedience to a Supreme Being. In another way, "it is the divine guidance for humility"²

From the two definitions, it could be said that science is a human venture, while religion is God-given. In the same way, the word "science" is synonymous with "knowledge". The word "knowledge" is equally used in the scripture in connection with the tree of knowledge in Genesis 2:9.

However, from the above, one can say that, most discoveries in science are embedded in the Holy Scripture; as such, the two disciplines

must respect one another and take cognizance of the benefits or contributions one can offer the other as rightly opined by Moris that:

Every Bible believing Christian goes to the Bible for his basic orientation in all departments of truth. The Bible is his textbook of science as well as his guide to spiritual truth³.

Most fundamental and important knowledge relating to sciences are revealed in the scripture years ago, but only recently discovered and acknowledged by modern science. Examples could be cited from Hebrew's 1:2,3.

Interactions of Sciences and Religion: A Biblical Perspective

Fundamentally, religion and science are very harmonious. They are, in fact identical roads to truth. To St. Thomas, both stem from God and so there could be no contradiction between them. The Bible supplies the necessary basic framework for science, providing clues to basic truths of major and specific disciplines in science. To this assertion, White contends that science inevitably contributed to the health of religion⁴.

Galileo, a theist has great respect for his religious convictions and his scientific ideals, because to him, God is the author of both the book of nature and the book of scripture⁵. In their own views, Newton and his followers gave a mechanical understanding of the universe. From their Newtonian points, the universe is likened to a complicated machine, which to him is created by God, who is also seeing in his continued role giving equilibrium to the solar system, safe guarding it from perturbations. In Newton's words:

This most beautiful system of the sun, planet and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being⁶.

However, from the aforementioned, it could be deduced that, these scientists were clearly pointing out the fact that their main interest and motivation for scientific matters was access to god's wonderful handiwork. To this Leibitz says: "it is especially in science that we see the

wonders of God, his powers, wisdom and goodness. That is why, since my youth, I have given myself to the sciences that I loved⁷.

At this juncture, let us consider some specific disciplines that got their clues to basic truths from the scripture. Those are clear indications that the Bible provides the necessary basic framework for science.

In the area of "astronomy" for instance, the Holy Scripture explicitly emphasize, the infinite size and variety of the physical universe, which is perhaps the most striking fact of modern astronomy. From Isaiah 55:9, we have a comparison of the vastness of the heavens to the vastness of the thoughts of God (Jeremiah 33:22) among other passages point to the numerous nature of the stars that man cannot number. While I Cor. 15:41 talks of a one star different from another star in glory". To this effect, modern astronomers today are gearing their efforts to the study and cataloguing of the so numerous different types of stars⁸.

The basic principle of modern "meteorology" is embedded in the circulation of the atmosphere. Ecclesiastes 1:6 point to this fact. It says of the circuit of the winds", for all practical purpose as synonymous term. While Isaiah 40:12, stressed the very precise proportions of the different components and motions of the atmosphere. A little bit further to Isaiah 40:22, gives the picture of the atmospheric condition of heavens with its terrestrial blanket which enables the earth to be inhabitable retaining the heat, spreading the light from the sun, as well as supplying the air we breathe in. The verse says that, God has "stretched out the heavens as a curtain spreading them out as a tent to dwell in"⁹.

For hydrology as a discipline, it is a tremendous mechanism vital for sustaining life on earth in diverse ways, such as providing for evaporation, transportation, precipitation and run-off of the waters of the earth in a never ending cycle. Isaiah 55:10, 11; Ecclesiastes 1:6, and all describe such cycle with fine accuracy.

Genesis 1:15 and Psalm 19:6 give us a clue to part of what Geology entails by recognizing the fact that all the energy needed for the maintenance of geological and other processes must originally be supplied by the sun.

Isaiah 40:12 is an indication for the foundation of geophysics, which is the basic Principle of Isostasy (which means equal weights). The passage speaks of God "weighing the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance". Here, the pre-eminent importance of gravitational forces in geophysical calculations can easily be inferred.

The science of physiology can additionally be understood as stressed in the wonderful Biblical assertions of Leviticus 17:11 that "the life of the flesh is in the blood" while such scriptural passages as Proverbs 16:24 and 17:22 emphasized the much needed truths of psycho-therapy.

Similarly, if adequately examined, one could discover that, basic principles about the sciences of archaeology, anthropology, medicine, taxonomy and others are revealed, in the scriptures. All these, thus, implied that, the Bible is for the Christians the textbook of science and of all knowledge¹⁰.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the aforementioned, it could be rightly said that, science and religion can interact genuinely in a mutually constructive way, with each offering something of intellectual value to the other for humanity. As such the many areas where science has offered help to religion can be identified. For instance, there are modern inventions and discoveries today. Publishing houses now has series of modern printing machines to produce religious books which in turn help to improve man's progress in religion. Religious teachers and preachers now also have easy access to computers, telephones, CDs and even internet. The task of preaching by ministers become easier as the message tend to travel faster than where, vehicles could even get to. This in turn will facilitate wider coverage of their messages. This indicates that science and religion should not be separated. Both are after the total well being of man. Thus the two disciplines should be compulsorily taught at all levels of education, so that students either Christian or Muslim from the very beginning will learn to appreciate God the more in all scientific discoveries.

In all, the relationship between religion and science today is a welcome one, in which there is respect and sense of mutual complement. A situation practically demonstrated by American astronauts when they effected the first landing on the moon by reading Genesis 1:28 and God blessed them... This showed that science and its results are part of God's overall design and fulfillment of his infuction¹¹.

Notes and References

1. A. Abdullahi, *Science Teaching In Nigeria*. (Ilorin: Atoto press limited, 1982), p.14.
2. A.N. Whitehead, *Science And The Modern World*. (New York: The Free Press, 1967), p.14.
3. H.M Moris, *Studies in the Bible And Science*, (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Presbyterian And Reformed Publishing Co. 1067), p.110.
4. A.D. White, *A History Of The Warfare Of Science With Theology In Christendom*, 2 vols, (New York: Apple-Ton Century Crofts, Inc 1896), p.57.
5. M. Golshani (ed), (*Can Science Dispense with Religion?* 2nd Edition, (Iron: P.O. Box 14155, Tehran, 2002) p. 3.
6. Ibid. p. 4.
7. Ibid. p. 4.
8. H.M. Moris, p.110.
9. Isaiah 40:12.
10. H.M. Moris, p. 120.
11. G. Aderibigbe, *Fundamentals of Philosophy of Religion*, (Ikeja: Free Enterprise. Publisher, July 1988,) pp.87-88.