



**Christianity and
Science ARE
Compatible!**

**Creation AND Evolution are
EACH Totally True!**

CARL JOHNSON



CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE ARE COMPATIBLE!
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It seems to me that most Christians underestimate the Lord! Few seem anymore to be willing to believe where the Bible says that the Lord Created everything in Six Days, because they have been influenced by scientific research that discusses billions of years! As a Christian Church Pastor, I happen to believe the WHOLE Bible and so I do not question the Six Day Creation. However, it happens that I was educated as a Nuclear Physicist, and I recognize that science is on solid logical ground regarding the Universe being around 15 billion years old. What gives???

I think the resolution is really simple! I believe that the Lord is billions of times smarter than any of us people, so we probably can never totally comprehend His Plan for us. However, I believe that He is Loving and Considerate regarding us. And so, even though He Created everything in Six Days, He knew our curiosity and desire to "logically understand" everything, and so He Wonderfully provided a totally separate "scientific perspective" for us to find totally logical comfort in.

In fact, He arranged everything so that we cannot even tell which of the two understandings is actually the one that really occurred! If a person wants to trust "solid logic", NO terminal flaw can be found in a scientific star-formation / earth-oceans-land / fishes-animals-man line of reasoning! However, if a person is willing to set aside some logical rules and purely accept what the Bible tells us, then NO terminal flaw can be found in that either! **A critical issue in this is that the SEQUENCE of events MUST be the same in both views**, even if the time scales seem outlandishly different.

This current Parallelism perspective is that there are two perfectly **parallel understandings** of existence, that of Christian Faith and that of analytical science, that are INDEPENDENTLY each absolutely true and complete and self-consistent. Trying to mix "facts" between them can appear to cause incompatibilities, but **either alone represents a perfect and correct and complete view of the world.**

Most individual Christians would LOVE to wholeheartedly support the Bible's Creation story. They are somewhat discouraged from doing so because of the impressive findings of modern scientific progress that seem to

contradict it. Sadly, many Christians have become SO overwhelmed by science that they look to base their Faith on actual archaeological findings of Noah's Ark or on scientific proof that Jesus actually did Miracles or on other historical or scientific confirmations of Christian statements in the Bible. That actually defeats the whole concept of Faith! (This 'Parallelism' premise makes such external documentation unnecessary and essentially irrelevant within the religious context.)

Wave Versus Particle

At the start of the 17th century, Galileo first used the telescope to explore the heavens. Shortly thereafter, scientists came to disagree about the true nature of light. Two major approaches were dominant in the controversy. Some believed a "**corpuscular**" theory which involved light being tiny particles, which were transferred from a source (like the Sun), to a destination (like our Earth) and these particles carried the heat and life-giving energy to us. Others believed that light was a **wave-phenomenon** where the energy was carried by a wave motion and not by actual movement of actual of particles from the source to the destination.

Many of the world's best thinkers got involved in this debate. Pierre de Fermat, one of the world's foremost thinkers, believed and aggressively supported a version of the corpuscular theory. Rene Descartes, another of world renown, believed and supported a slightly different corpuscular theory. Christian Huygens, who was equally respected and known, believed and supported a wave-based explanation. These men were the intellectual heavy hitters of the day.

We MUST Find the Errors in the Other Side!

The situation was clearly not soluble, unless one side might happen on some possible way to utterly destroy the opposition, which didn't seem to be in the wings. **No middle ground was possible, either.** Light was EITHER a non-solid wave phenomenon OR a solid particle (corpuscular) phenomenon. It's either solid or it isn't. Even if it could somehow be found to be "semi-solid", it would still be "solid." The same is true of wave phenomena. Tiny waves are still waves. **There was no such meaningful concept as a wave-particle, and all those scientists knew that, so no "shade of gray" solution was possible.**

To clarify the scale of the problem, consider the following. If the correct nature of light is as a particle, this implies a certain "graininess" where you couldn't forever keep dividing an amount of light in half (dimming it down, as it were). At some point, you would get down to one particle of light, and it couldn't be divided further. (If you could, the pieces would no longer be light, but something else.) In contrast, a wave nature implies ALWAYS being able to divide it in half, forever. No matter how small a wave is, you can ALWAYS make it smaller. **You either can or you cannot keep dividing it forever.**

But We KNOW We Are Right!

Yet, absolutely compelling evidence existed to support each point of view. Numerous experiments supported the wave nature of light. When two beams of light are aimed at each other, they pass through each other without hitting and bouncing off, just like waves would. When light passes through a narrow slit, some of it is diffracted, and interference patterns are easily seen. This is also clearly a distinctive wave phenomenon. But there were some long-standing scientific findings, such as stellar aberration and the Photoelectric Effect, which gave equally compelling evidence for a particle (or quantum) nature for light. **Each side could find repeatable scientific evidence to support**

(and PROVE) its own position, but couldn't resoundingly demonstrate the errors in the opposing viewpoint.

And EVERYONE involved knew that both sides could NOT be correct! The two descriptions were irreconcilably incompatible with each other!

Hmmmmm!

Does this sound familiar?

Christians and scientists each find extensive basis for their OWN beliefs, and each KNOW that they are right, but are frustrated at not being able to conclusively disprove the opposition's view.

The Nature of Light Dilemma Resolved

Finally, a man came along who looked at all the evidence and saw a bigger picture and realized that both sides had been entirely right all along. This man, Albert Einstein, didn't get his Nobel Prize (in 1921) for his work in relativity. He actually received it for his explanation of the Photoelectric Effect. His insight in this subject was significant because it resolved the controversy over the nature of light.

The actual mathematics of the explanation of the Photoelectric Effect is somewhat trivial, but the conceptualization was exquisite. He had found a resolution, where all of the hundreds of the world's best minds hadn't, over the previous centuries!

A Broader Perspective

All the previous efforts had been in trying to find a major flaw in the opposing approach, to claim victory by default. Einstein realized that that approach was forever doomed to failure, since BOTH sides had been entirely right all along! **Einstein was the first to recognize that the two camps had merely been perceiving different aspects of a more complicated phenomenon.** Under certain circumstances, light appears to behave EXACTLY as if it was a wave. But under other circumstances, it appears to behave EXACTLY as if it was a particle. **It CANNOT show evidence of both at once!** (That's VERY important!) It is not appropriate to get into the Physics of this here, because it gets real deep, real fast! If you're curious, any college Physics textbook includes a discussion of the subject.

Light did NOT have a simple, single, fixed nature, as had been previously thought. Its complex TRUE nature

just APPEARED to us to exhibit characteristics of being a wave OR of being a particle, depending on what experiment we did. It is now generally accepted that any experiment you could ever do will only show light to seem to be a particle OR a wave, and NEVER both at the same time.

A VERY important point here is that NEITHER side had to concede the slightest detail to the other. No "accommodating" was necessary and both sides could confidently know that they could fully believe EVERYTHING that they had ever earlier believed.

Yes!!!

The premise here is that a larger truth exists, as in the recognition of the dual nature of light. **Both the Christians AND the scientists are totally and absolutely correct!** This is true, even though there would appear to be elements that are incompatible and irresolvable. As with the case of light, **it is impossible to find the fatal flaw in either argument, because there is none!** The two perspectives, which often seem so diametrically opposed, are actually **each internally perfectly consistent explanations of our history and heritage and environment.** The

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two represent "parallel" perspectives of the Universe, each absolutely and completely valid.

Before Einstein, an individual scientist could find comfort in his belief that light was a particle OR in that it was a wave. Each felt that his choice gave an appropriate explanation to fill in a gap in human knowledge. As it turns out, they were all right! Since Einstein, we find comfort in a more comprehensive explanation that clearly explains all of the confusing discrepancies that had befuddled scientists for centuries.

A similar situation exists in the Christianity / science debate (the main part of which is known as the Creationism / evolutionism debate.) Christians have always found comfort in the conviction of their beliefs. Scientists have long found comfort in relying on extremely rigid logic and indisputable facts. This partially explains why each group defends its ground so adamantly. Each side has total confidence in its established positions, which are all based on compelling evidence, arguments, and beliefs. There is no doubt whatever that what they believe is completely true!

The View through the Christian Perspective

The Lord clearly DID create the world and the universe. From the strict Christian Fundamentalist point-of-view, **He actually did all this in six days!** He began by creating LIGHT. In the process of Creation, He invested man alone with a Soul, and created him totally separately from all of His creatures! And He caused descriptions of all the events to get to Moses and thence into the Bible, several thousand years ago. And He realized even then that He needed to provide for the future natural curiosity of His humankind.

During that six days of Work, with incredible foresight, He arranged for fossils to be available to be found in many rocks throughout the world, even though no one would even know what a fossil even WAS for thousands of years! He arranged sedimentary rock layers and magnetic "striping" and radioactive dating information that would later suggest enormous time intervals. He arranged the planets and stars and galaxies to appear basically as they do to us now. He arranged for the DNA double helix and evidence of similarities between the DNA of His humans and the DNA He put in other living things, even though there was NO actual relationship between them!

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He also left innumerable intriguing clues (and some red herrings) for the edification of the curious scientific humans that would come many centuries later, that could support a scientifically self-consistent evolutionary explanation for all of our questions about the past and the Universe and ourselves.

Christians generally accept the Genesis story of Creation as absolute fact, and therefore irrefutable, because it is the written record that God had Moses write down in the Bible, which cannot have any errors.

The View through the Scientific Perspective

It clearly took around 15 billion years for all of the natural processes to occur that are presented so briefly in Genesis. Science has also clearly established that LIGHT came first! Incontrovertible evidence has been accumulated to prove that the stars and Sun and planets and Earth and Moon took unimaginably long times to form. Oceans and the atmosphere gradually developed on the Earth. Sedimentary deposition and rock formation occurred over periods of millions of years, and when animals and plants occasionally died under very specific circumstances, a fossil was eventu-

ally formed from minerals from water that got deposited in the hollow mold.

Radioactive decay of certain elements is a natural and predictable phenomenon, which can be used to reasonably accurately find the age of some of such very old objects. All of the creatures that now live and have ever lived came about by a rather slow, completely natural process of individual variation, naturally selective survival, mutation and evolution, with mankind coming about by this same process. DNA similarities between man and animals and even plants are therefore totally natural and logical. The entire Universe, including the Earth and mankind, evolved in a natural progression of events.

The Universe and all of its contents are therefore absolutely logical, and a (scientific) history of the past could be assembled without even having to rely on the Genesis story.

Science knows that it is forever a "work in progress" so most ideas about the explanations and inter-relationships about all of these matters are subject to future revision and improvement. Therefore, science generally describes much

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of their effort as being "theories". It might be surprising, but strict science still considers gravity as a "Theory of gravitation" rather than the "Law of gravity" that is popularly referred to. True science is INCREDIBLY cautious before claiming anything as absolute fact! But many of their "theories" are virtually certain to be true (like gravity!).

Why would He go to the trouble to do all this?

With His infinite foresight, He knew that thousands (*or billions*) of years later, His humans would develop the capabilities of organized learning and researching into every facet of their environment, and would amass information at an impressive rate in all fields of investigation. He knew that their curiosity would eventually extend to exploring their own past and their environment's past. If He did not provide for that, their curiosity would be frustrated by coming upon logically incompatible information. **Our Loving God would never do that to us!**

By impressively and lovingly planning ahead, He Created a Universe that could be perceived in either of two very different ways, and He made sure that each of the two ways was absolutely internally self-consistent! **He effectively allowed future men to believe EITHER a story that**

involved one really impressive week OR a story that apparently required phenomenally long periods of time, whichever gave each of them the most comfort!
But not both stories at the same time!

Clearly, there are clues in even more inaccessible spots on and in the Earth and elsewhere in the Universe, that we may not find for thousands of years yet. We current mortals are not necessarily the final generations. With His unlimited knowledge of our curiosity and inventiveness, it seems obvious that many future discoveries await us that even Sherlock Holmes would have difficulty deducing. How wonderful that He has provided for our entertainment and edification. He thoughtfully arranged for us to keep from getting bored. At the same time, He provided a consistency of logic in His Universe, such that we could achieve a level of understanding of the Universe. Every future discovery will certainly be compatible with both His Book and scientific investigation! That is pretty impressive just in itself!

EITHER Creation OR Evolution Is Absolutely Correct!

Wonderfully, each of us can therefore choose to believe EITHER Creation OR evolution, and we will each be able

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to forever believe in and support that perspective. In either case, we can be absolutely confident that our understanding is absolutely true and totally correct in every detail.

God has very carefully arranged His Book and His Universe to be compatible with EITHER approach to understanding. There are actually NO direct contradictions between the two stories, no matter what advocates of either side tell you. **NEITHER story can EVER be disproven!**

The vicious attacks between Christian leaders and scientific spokespeople have become so common and expectable, that many people on both sides have closed their minds to the ideas of ever finding compatibility with people of the other side. If they each would just be open-minded enough to accept (tolerate?) and digest the knowledge of BOTH sides, they would all have TWICE as much background information to work with and should be able then to achieve even better understandings of the complexities of this life the Lord has given us.

When the author explores scientific matters, such as astrophysics, great distances and apparently unimaginably long time periods are perceived, and evolutionary associations

are acknowledged between all living things. When he studies his Bible, he sees and fully accept that Creation took Six Days and that mankind was created absolutely independently and uniquely and separately from all of God's other Creations. These two EXTREMELY different perspectives are not seen as any logical impasse, because of this Duality/Parallelism approach. As long as one doesn't try to "mix and match" between specifics that are seen in viewing through the two windows, there is never any confrontation with any actual contradictions. Each perspective is (individually) absolutely complete and self-consistent and obviously true.

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It is important to keep in mind that, in the entire history of mankind, we presently only know of one situation where this Duality has been scientifically proven to exist, that of light being both particle and wave. Therefore, it might be an extremely rare circumstance, or it might be such an obscure concept as to be generally unnoticed, or our level of intelligence and comprehension may just be lower than we would like to think.

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An interesting irony exists in this premise. Let's say that there is some truth in the Parallelism concept. If that is so, then a whole new approach to a wide range of religious concepts, and possibly life-concepts might open up. And it would have all began with Einstein's insights on LIGHT! For a second time, LIGHT might represent the very first step in a Genesis of understanding! (But, if Duality is shown to be meaningless, ignore that last thought!)

Hopefully, there are some useful truths contained within this essay and this premise. Hopefully, its effect might lessen the animosity between Christians and scientists and others, where mutual respect might build. That situation should enable dialogues, which might result in deeper respect and understanding and Faith for all of us.

Given that this essay was written by a mortal human, it is not likely to be perfectly and totally correct. However, hopefully it will offer a foundation for others to build on, to form a solid framework where Christians and scientists and others will be able to combine their efforts and Peace will be a result.



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