The science vs. faith controversy is clearly illustrated by “the case of the two Jerrys.” American biologist and staunch atheist Dr Jerry Coyne, (BS., PhD.), claims: “Science and faith are fundamentally incompatible!” Trying to find an account between science and faith is a mug’s game.”

Accord between science and faith is a mug’s game.”

And creationist Dr Jerry Bergman (9 academic degrees) writes: “As man learns more of the marvellous designs implanted in creation, he should be moved to appreciate evenmore the wisdom of the God who made it all. The evidence of His handiwork is so obvious that not only do the heavens declare His glory, but the earth shows the evidence of His design. So much so that men are without excuse if they deny it.”

The Bible tells us that “what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them” through creation.

Where did the popular myth that real scientists can’t believe in God and the Bible come from? The founders of our main scientific disciplines would have been surprised at the suggestion that there was any conflict. They believed they were investigating what God had created, and “thinking God’s thoughts after Him.”

More than ever!

There are now more scientists who believe in God than ever before — and a growing number hold to the Biblical view of origins. It’s impossible to know the exact number, but there are clearly thousands. The US-based Creation Research Society has around 700 members with a Master’s or Doctor’s degree in a natural science. The South Korean Society for Creation Science has over 1000 scientists in membership, including about 500 with a Ph.D. There are hundreds in Europe, and North and South America. For a partial listing, see creation.com/scientists-alive-today-who-accept-the-biblical-account-of-creation

“Greatest scientist” was a believer

Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) has been described as “the greatest scientific genius the world has known.” He discovered the Law of Gravitational Force, and established the three Universal Laws of Motion. Yet he was a firm believer in God as Creator, and spent less time learning about theology. He wrote: “Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.”
Many people believe that our knowledge of the universe has made belief in God more difficult, even impossible. But the greatest pioneer astronomers believed that the heavens revealed the works of God.

Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543) was a Polish clergyman and astronomer who revolutionised our understanding of the universe. Copernicus (right) believed that the world “has been built for us by the Best and Most Ordinarily Workman of all.” He also wrote, “[t]he idea of God making the universe is not a far-fetched idea.” He challenged the popular geocentric view that the earth was fixed and that everything else, including the sun, stars and planets, moved around it daily. Many people wrongly believed that the Bible taught this. Copernicus promoted the heliocentric view, now accepted today, but realised that he would be in trouble, so he delayed publishing his book until the year of his death. Another astronomer, Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), faced the Catholic Inquisition for espousing and writing about the heliocentric view. Although silenced, he never recanted his views. Galileo was a devout Christian, and once wrote, “God is known by nature in his works, and by doctrine in his revealed word.”

German astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) was taken to a hilltop when he was five to see a bright comet. He never forgot this, and later in his life began to study astronomy. Kepler embraced the heliocentric view, and formulated the laws which govern the movements of the planets, which he described as “a divine mechanism—devised by the most wise Creator.”

The King’s Astronomer

Sir William Herschel (below), who discovered the planet Uranus (lower right) in 1781, and also two of Saturn’s many moons, once said, “The undevout astronomer must be mad.” He was a member of the Royal Society, and in 1782 was appointed King’s Astronomer. He was also a musician, composer and church organist.

21st Century Bible-believing astronomers

Dr Danny R. Faulkner (left), has a B.S. (Math), M.S. (Physics), M.A. and Ph.D. (Astronomy). He taught physics and astronomy at the University of South Carolina. Dr Donald de Young (lower left) has a Ph.D. (Physics), M.S. (Physics), and B.S. (Physics), and is a member of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Both men reject the “big bang” theory of the origin of the universe. They believe and teach the Biblical view of creation, and regularly speak and write on the subject.

Scientist whose research proved life can’t arise from non-living matter also saved many lives

Spontaneous generation is the theory that life on earth came from non-living matter — a theory still believed by many secular scientists. Yet more than two centuries ago famous French scientist Louis Pasteur (right) conducted experiments which proved it can’t happen. He showed that if broth is boiled, then protected from the air, micro-organisms enter it, it remains sterile. To those who reject belief in a Creator, the origin of life remains a mystery. Pasteur also proved the germ theory of disease — that germs attack the body from outside, causing diseases such as anthrax, cholera, TB and smallpox. Pasteur showed that vaccination can prevent disease, and helped produce the first rabies vaccine. Vaccination has saved many thousands of lives. He also introduced a method of heating milk to make it keep longer — that’s why we call it pasteurisation. Pasteur once said, “Science brings me nearer to God. The more I study nature the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator.” When he died in 1895 he was given a French state funeral.

BIOLOGIST DITCHED EVOLUTION

Biologist Dr Gary Parker (right), B.A. (Biology/Chemistry), M.S. (Biology/Physiology), and Ed.D (Biology), was once a non-Christian and an evolutionist. He earned several academic awards, including election to the American Society of Zoologists for his research on tadpoles, and a fifteen-month fellowship award from the U.S. National Science Foundation. In his booklet From Evolution to Creation, he explains how he came to reject evolution and accept the Biblical view of origins. He has authored five biology textbooks and six books on creation science.

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Wonders of the Web

HOW often do we see spiders’ webs without realising how amazing they are? Spiders weave their webs to trap insects. The largest known web is made by Darwin’s bark spider (left), often stretching as much as 25 metres (85 feet) from one bank of a river to another. Spider silk is extremely strong, five times as strong as steel. It will stretch to three times its length, and shrink back again, and is not weakened by getting wet. Spiders produce 6 different kinds of silk for different purposes, including protecting eggs, making the main web, and capturing prey. The silk is produced from special glands called spinnerets.1 Scientists are keen to learn the spider’s secret so they can copy it. Science Daily (6th February 2013) reported: “It would be understandable to think that science knows all there is to know about the remarkable physics of spider silk, but the truth is far from that.” Stanford researcher Kristie Koski, who is planning to use spectroscopy to shed new light on the mysteries of spider silk, said, “My goal is to study the nanoscale of silk to understand not just how spider silk behaves as it does, but also why it behaves in such remarkable ways, in hopes of someday creating better man-made fibers.”

Evolutionists believe that spiders gradually evolved their silk-making skills, but surely trial and error would not have worked! Footprints of spiders with traces of their webs reveal that there has been no evolution, either of spiders themselves, or their silk-making skills. This points to purposeful design, not millions of years of evolution.

1. See www.guardian.co.uk/science/graphics/2013/jan/12/how-spider-silk-graphic

Rock Solid Evidence? Geologists who believe the Bible

When geology is mentioned, most people think of evolution and millions of years. Time is essential to evolution theory. Charles Darwin wrote, “He who…. does not admit how vast have been the past periods of time, may at once close this volume.” So it may be a surprise to learn that most early geologists believed that earth’s unchangeable (water-laid) rocks were formed rapidly, not slowly. The late Dr Ernst Mayr wrote: The reason why catastrophism was adopted by virtually all of the truly productive leading geologists in the first half of the 19th century is that the facts seemed to support it.” The majority of them were “flood geologists”, who believed that most of these rocks had been formed during the worldwide flood recorded in the Bible (Genesis 6-8). Many geologists are returning to catastrophism to explain the sedimentary rocks, although most refuse to believe they were formed in the Flood. However, there are quite a number of qualified geologists who believe this, and some have carried out ground-breaking research that supports their convictions. Dr Andrew Snelling (left), who has a BSc (Hons) and PhD in geology, has written a comprehensive two-volume 1,100-page thesis, Earth’s Catastrophic Past. British geologist Paul Garner, has undertaken extensive field work in areas like the Grand Canyon and Coconino Sandstone, Arizona, and also in the UK, finding strong evidence that these formations were formed rapidly, rather than over long periods of time. Both these geologists are featured in a recent documentary film, Set in Stone.1 Other active geologists who share these views include Drs John Morris, Steve Austin and Kurt Wise from the USA, and Dr John Matthews from the UK, who has studied the geology of the Dorset coast, and explained how the Chalk deposits could have formed rapidly.