

Running Head: LESSON 4 STUDY QUESTIONS

*Lesson 4 Study Question 1*

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*1. Respond to the following statement: "To use any passage in the Bible as*

*containing any scientific content is to both misuse good modern science and twist the meaning of the biblical text.” Do you agree or disagree? How would this statement impact science apologetics? How would you defend the Bible against claims that it is merely poetic mythology?*

Some Christians have argued that regarding Biblical passages that have scientific content as actual scientific truth is eisegesis, that is reading meaning into the biblical text that neither the human writer nor the divine Author ever intended. Against this claim, I would respond that, although the Bible is not a science textbook, Christians regard the Bible as a truthful book—or, more correctly, collection of books, inspired by an omniscient God who calls Himself Truth (Titus 1:2; Ps. 12:6; Heb. 6:18; John 17:17; 2 Sam.7: 28) and makes the claim about itself that it is a source of truth and wisdom (Num. 23:9; Ps. 12:6; 119:89,96; Prov. 30:5; Matt. 24:35). The Bible affirms its inspiration and states that it is profitable for humans to study it in its entirety (2 Tim. 3:16). Nowhere does the Bible specify that its message is only authoritative for “faith and practice,” as adherents of a weak definition of infallibility have claimed (Grudem, 1994, p. 93). When the Scriptures address any topic, including science or history, they speak truly, not exhaustively. The terminology and style used are those appropriate for the original audience, which may require translation and a bit of exegetic detective work for a modern reader to grasp, but the truth of the Bible transcends time, language and culture.

Bible contains books of many different kinds written in several ancient languages. Among the genera found in scripture are history, poetry, proverbs, apocalyptic, prophetic, and so forth. Obviously, an apocalyptic or poetic text must be studied in context, as non-literal meanings are often present or presented in ways that may seem obscure to modern readers. To say that the entire Bible must be studied as poetic myth is to ignore hermeneutic considerations related to genera and to sell the Bible short. Certainly, Jesus Himself had no reservation about believing that the events reported in Scripture actually took place, for He refers to most of the

Old Testament books and treats all of them as reliable and authoritative (Matt.12: 3-4; Matt: 12:41-2; Luke 4:25-27; Luke 17:29; John 3:14; John 4:5), as do Peter, (1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 2-7,16) Paul (Rom. 4:10, 19; 9:10-12; 11:2-4; I Cor. 10:11); James (James 2:25); and the author of Hebrews (Heb. 7:1-2; 9:1-5,19-21; 11:3; 12:16-17). Thus, to deny the authority and truth of Scripture in any area, including science, entails denying the omniscience of Christ and of the Holy Spirit who directed the Biblical writers, which invalidates the Gospel message and the essential tenets of the Judeo-Christian faith, including the doctrines of creation, the Trinity, the deity of Christ, and the inspiration and infallibility of Scripture.

#### References

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