

Rev. Dr. Yugo Suzuki's Sermon

11/7/10 **Is Science a Threat to Biblical Faith? Psalm 8**

The Bible says that the sun and the moon and the stars are God's creation. God put the sun and the moon and the stars in the glorious heavens for one purpose: to reveal his glory and splendor.

Science teaches us that about 15 billion years ago, a tremendous explosion started the expansion of the universe. This explosion is known as the big bang. Which view is right?

Christian fundamentalists say that we should accept the Bible. Modern secularists, on the other hand, insist that the Bible is a relic of pre-scientific mythology and should not be taken seriously.

Who is right?

The truth of the matter is that both Christian fundamentalists and modern secularists are wrong. Christian fundamentalists are wrong in denying the truth of science. Modern secularists are wrong in denying the truth of the Bible.

The biblical understanding of creation and the scientific understanding of the origin of nature are not alternative truths, but they are different kinds of truth.

Natural sciences such as astronomy, biology, and geology deal with the observable, measurable character and structure of nature. They all deal with facts.

The biblical understanding of creation, on the other hand, answers the question of the meaning and purpose of nature which science as science cannot answer.

The Bible is not a scientific textbook. When we want to know how old the universe is, how big it is and how it came to be, we must rely on science. But if we want to know its purpose, meaning and ultimate goal, we must listen to the Bible.

Factual information is important. But discerning meaning and purpose and goal is just as important. The relationship between science and faith is not a matter of either/or, but both/and.

Several years ago, I spent one night in the hospital to have my heart examined. Doctors and nurses checked carefully whether the arteries were clear and the cardiac muscles were functioning adequately.

While recuperating from the exam, a hospital chaplain walked in and talked to me. A small card was placed on his chest. It read "We Care for Your Soul."

My biological heart was under the care of physicians. My soul was under the care of a chaplain. The physicians, nurses, and chaplain and my heart and soul were all under the care of God.

Both science and faith are gifts of a gracious and loving God. God is good. God is great. Thanks be to God.