

## Crediting the Bible with What It Does Not Teach

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by Bill Crews

The Bible teaches that God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24- 25), that the sun rules our days and the moon our nights (Gen. 1:14-17), that Christ upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17), that God hung the earth upon nothing (Job 26:7), and that God sits “*above the circle of the earth*” (Isaiah 40:22). It does not teach that the earth is flat or square, nor that the earth is the center of either the universe or our solar system. “But,” say some, “the Bible speaks of the sun rising and of the sun setting, and the Bible speaks of ‘the four corners of the earth.’” Well, to this day, we also speak of the sun rising and the sun setting, and “the four corners of the earth” (used very little, by the way) refers to the four directions: north, east, south and west. But the Bible does not support the notion of a flat earth or the contention that the earth is the center of either our solar system or the universe.

As men began to learn more about the earth, our solar system and the universe, they also began to advance theories in their efforts to explain what they thought their eyes observed. Before the earthly ministry of Christ, the geocentric system (maintaining that the earth lies at the center of the universe and certainly at the center of our solar system) came into existence. This theory was championed by Ptolemy (Cladius Ptolemaeus), a 2nd century A.D. astronomer, mathematician and geographer of Alexandria, Egypt. It became known as the Ptolemaic System. It was embraced by many, including the Roman Catholic Church (after it came into existence) as true science, and it prevailed for hundreds of years. A Polish-German astronomer (Kopernigk; Nicolaus Copernicus his Latinized name) learned and established the truth that the sun, not the earth, is the center of our solar system. His work did not become generally known until after his death 1543 A.D. Galileo Galilei, an Italian astronomer (1564-1642 A.D.), constructed a telescope and made numerous discoveries and observations. He confirmed and endorsed the conclusions of Ptolemy and was bitterly opposed and censured by the Roman Catholic Church, even being brought before the pope.

Recently the pope of the Roman Catholic Church was visiting in Poland and went to the birth place of Copernicus. He saluted Copernicus, but said nothing about how his church had censured Galileo and rejected the Copernican System and upheld the old Ptolemaic System back in the 17th century. The press was eager to bring the matter up again, wondering if the pope’s church would apologize for wrongly reviling Copernicus and Galileo in the past (neither the pope nor his church did). Characteristic of their usual ignorance and prejudice, the press maintained that Copernicus and Galileo were teaching true science even though they had to go against the Roman Catholic Church **and the Bible** to do it. It is disturbing when they link the Bible with the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Let the whole world know that it was only a human religious organization, not the Bible, that was opposing science. There is no conflict between true science (established and confirmed fact or knowledge) and what the Bible teaches. Remember that the Bible does not teach all that men give it credit for teaching; it is more often misrepresented than properly represented, especially by movies and the media.

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