

# Arlington Church of Christ

**Wednesday night Bible class**

**Scientific Contradictions?**

Skeptics claim that the Bible is full of scientific inaccuracies and so cannot be inspired or be trusted. Sometimes the ‘problems’ are because the skeptic is trying to find words in the Bible that were not even ‘invented’ at the time of the writing of the scriptures. **Words like ‘dinosaur’ (1841), mammal, amphibian, reptile (1750) are not mentioned in the scriptures – instead animals were ‘classified’ by where they lived (Land animals, sea creatures, those that fly).**

(Day 5, **Gen 1:20-21** – sea creatures and things that fly,  
Day 6, **Gen 1:24-26**– those that live on the land , and man)

**And although the Bible is not a scientific textbook, it is absolutely correct scientifically about what it states in the language in which it was written.**

**The Bible is full of scientific knowledge that the writers could not possibly have known at the time of the writing – some examples are :**

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**Job 26:7 He spreads out the northern skies over empty space;  
he suspends the earth on nothing.**

**The belief of most ancient people was that the earth was held up  
on the shoulders of a giant, or on the back of a turtle**



Isaiah 40:22

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

**Ancients (and even some today) insisted that the earth is flat and that one will fall off the edge**

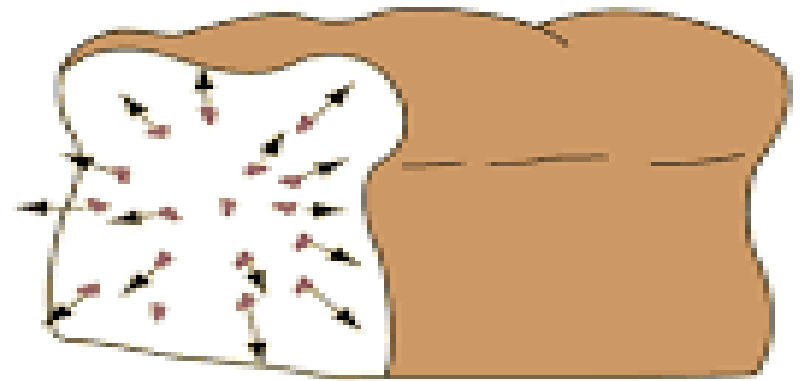
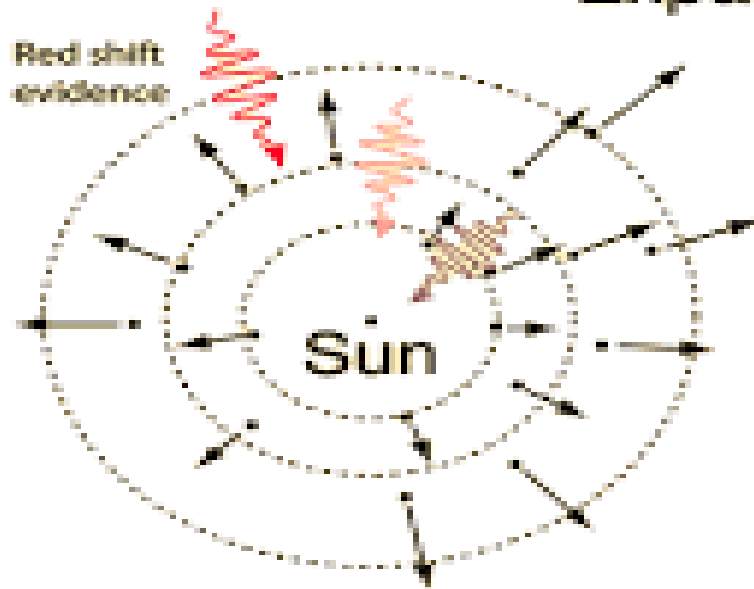


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**Evidence from astronomy shows the stars and galaxies are moving away from the earth at different speed**

## Expanding universe



Every raisin in a rising loaf of raisin bread will see every other raisin expanding away from it.

$$H = 71 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$$



Genesis 7:18-20

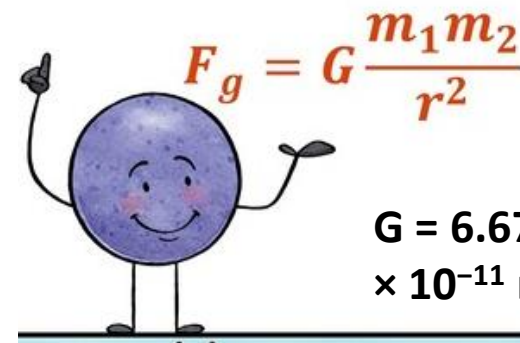
The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. <sup>19</sup> They rose greatly on the earth, and **all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.** <sup>20</sup> **The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.** (22 ½ feet)

**Sea fossils found on the tops of high mountains today – how did they get there? (Fossils can form ONLY by rapid burial – before decay)**

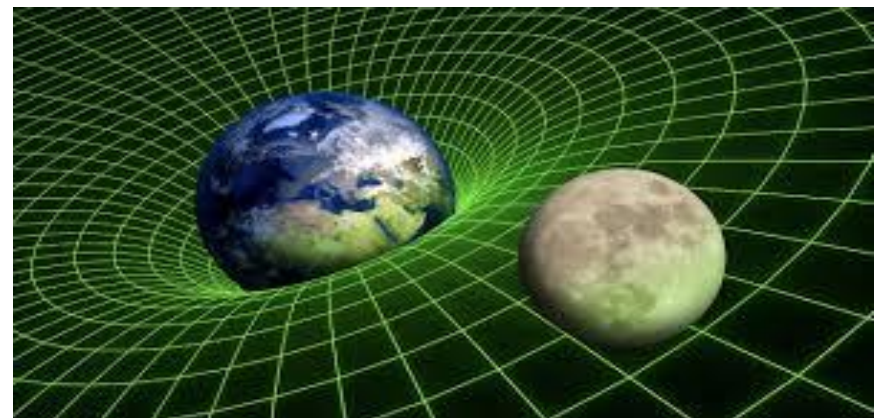
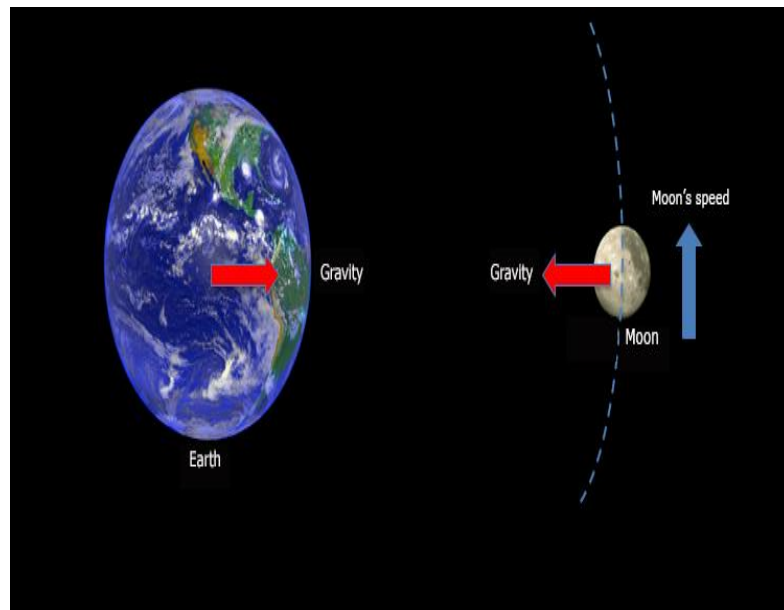
Job 38:31 “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you loosen Orion’s belt? (The stars are held together in some way)

The stars are held together by something that we cannot see or control - we call it “gravity.” We can calculate it and we know its strength depends on the amount of stuff (mass) and the distance between the two objects (radius) =>

But we still to this day do not know ‘what it is’ or why it works


$$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

$$G = 6.6743 \pm 0.00015) \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}.$$

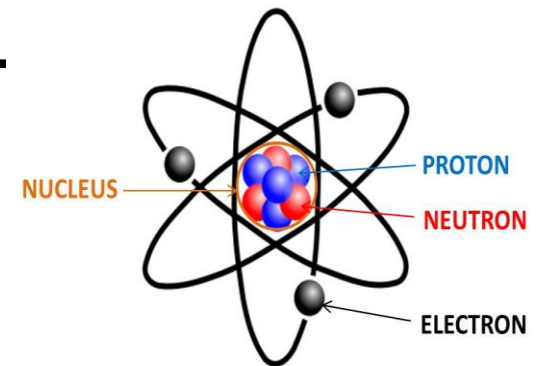


Colossians 1:16-17

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things have been created through him and for him.** <sup>17</sup> **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

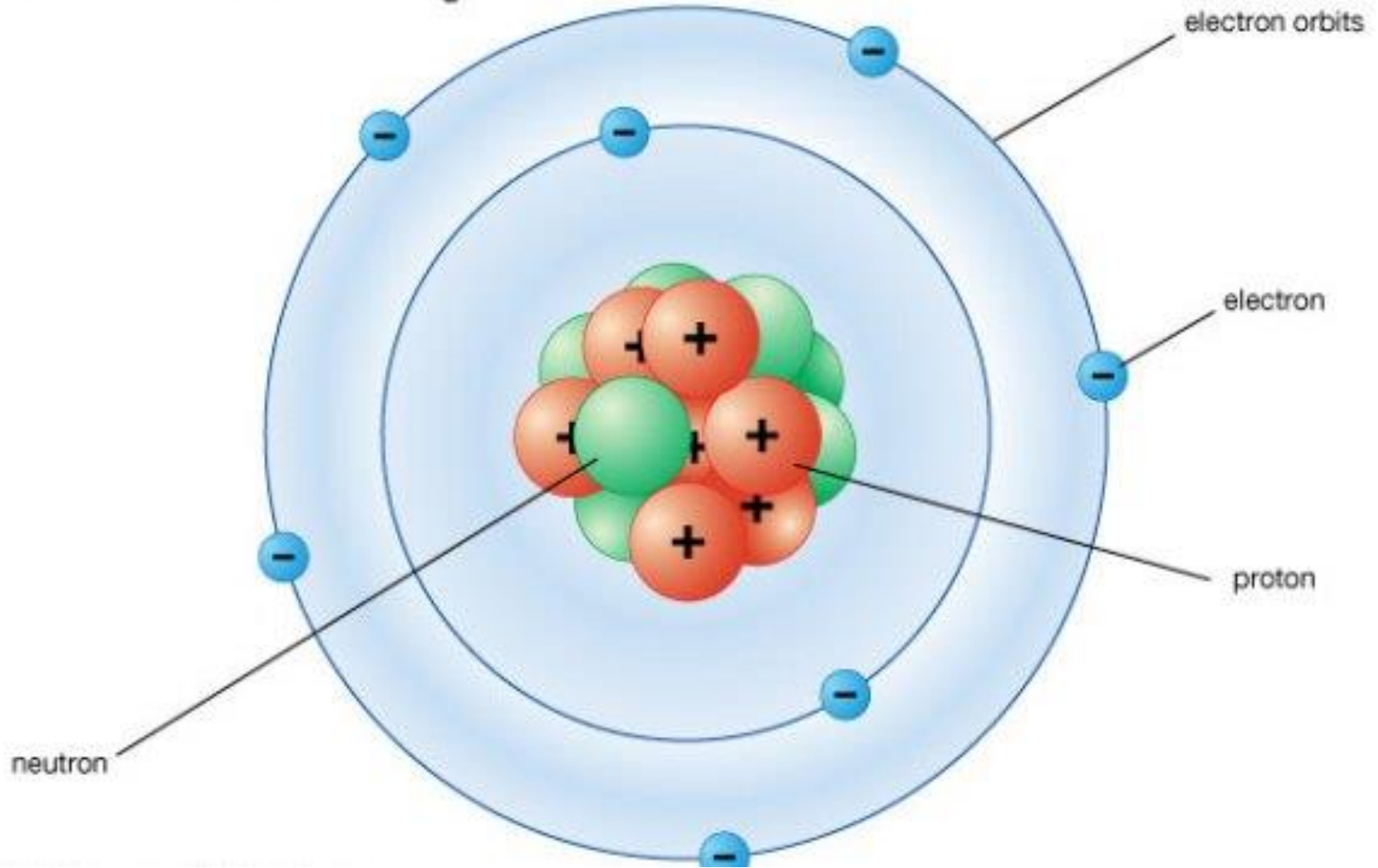
Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**We now call those invisible things , **atoms**, made of even smaller invisible parts (1850) And we can not really explain how it holds together -**





## Bohr atomic model of a nitrogen atom

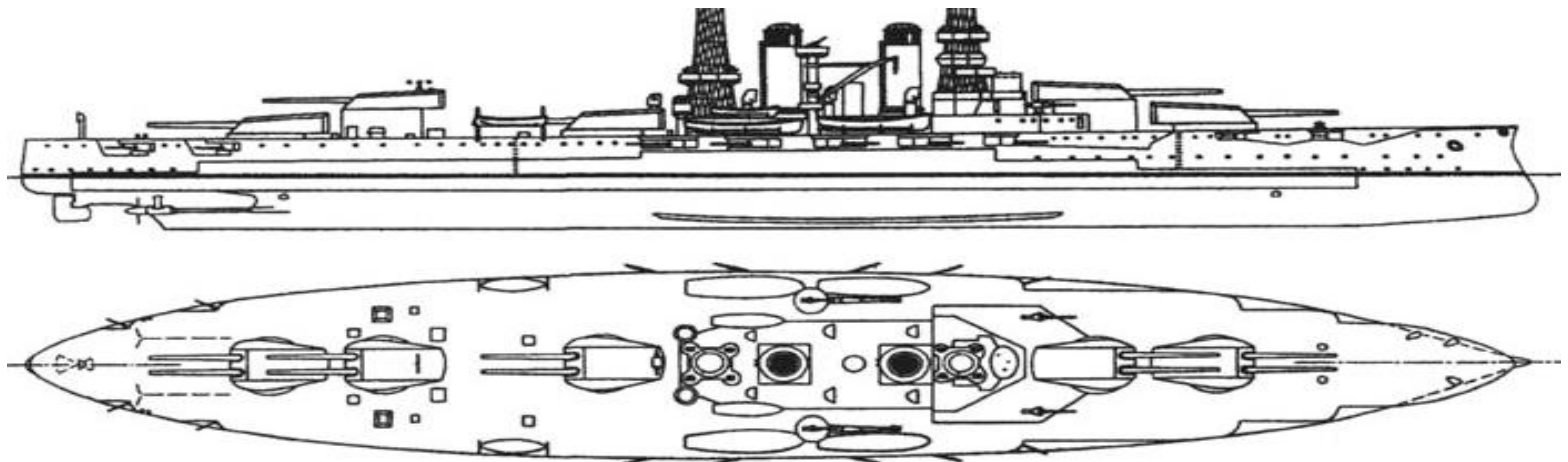


**The center of the atom called the nucleus should not stay together because of the repulsion forces of the positive protons – it should blow itself apart – there is some ‘unknown force’ called the ‘strong force’ that is holding it together.**

Genesis 6:14-15

<sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: **The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high**

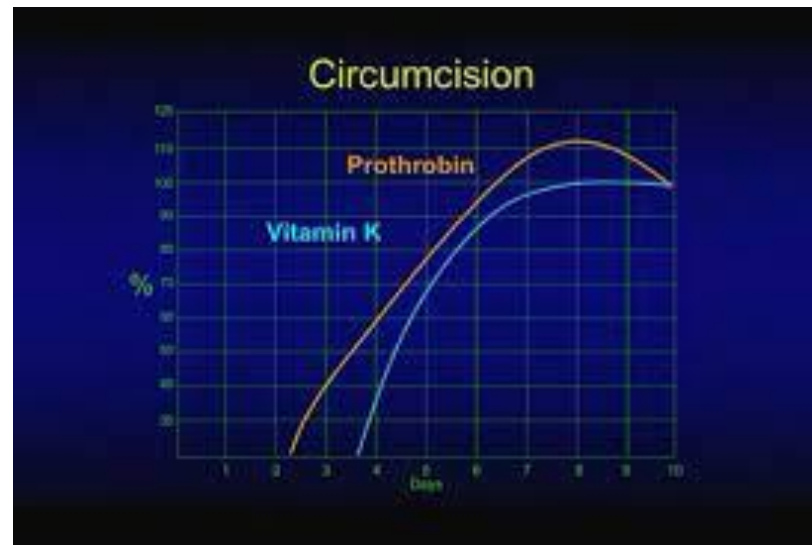
**This ratio of 30:5:3 is exactly the ratio used to construct our large ships today to make them able to withstand the rigors of the ocean – how did Noah know the correct dimensions unless instructed by God?**



Genesis 17:12

For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised,

**Why 8 days – we now know that at 8 day old, the human body has developed the highest amount of the prothrombin (the blood clotting material) in the person's life. This is the safest time to do minor surgery. If a doctor today does not perform circumcision on the eighth day, they must give the patient large doses of vitamin K and other drugs to increase the level of prothrombin.**



Num 19:4-10 the **heifer is to be burned—its hide, flesh, blood and intestines.** <sup>6</sup> **The priest is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer.** <sup>7</sup> After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean till evening. <sup>8</sup> The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean till evening.

<sup>9</sup> **A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They are to be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin.** <sup>10</sup> The man who gathers up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he too will be unclean till evening.

<sup>11</sup> **Whoever touches a human corpse will be unclean for seven days.** <sup>12</sup> **They must purify themselves with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then they will be clean.** But if they do not purify themselves on the third and seventh days, they will not be clean. <sup>13</sup> If they fail to purify themselves after touching a human corpse, they defile the LORD's tabernacle. They must be cut off from Israel. Because the water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on them, they are unclean; their uncleanness remains on them.

<sup>17</sup> “For the unclean person, **put some ashes from the burned purification offering into a jar and pour fresh water over them.** <sup>18</sup> Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to take some hyssop, dip it in the water and sprinkle the tent and all the furnishings and the people who were there. He must also **sprinkle anyone who has touched a human bone or a grave or anyone who has been killed or anyone who has died a natural death.** <sup>19</sup> The man who is clean is to sprinkle those who are unclean on the third and seventh days, and on the seventh day he is to purify them. **Those who are being cleansed must wash their clothes and bathe with water,** and that evening they will be clean.

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**The ‘ingredients’ of the purification were a heifer burned (animal fat) , mixed with burnt cedar wood (potash-lye), burnt hyssop (antiseptic herb), and burnt wool. This is a basic recipe for lye soap , and the burnt wool would supply tiny pieces of scratchy material which one would have to scrub to get off the skin. So to remove germs from contact with a dead person or animal, one had to wash themselves and their clothes over a period of seven days to eliminate any possible contamination. How did Moses know this ?**

**And yet in spite of all this and many others found in scripture, there are those who insist that the Bible writers made mistakes. Four examples of alleged mistakes in 'scientific knowledge':**

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### **Leviticus 11:13-19**

“These are **the birds (fowl)** you are to regard as unclean and not eat because they are unclean: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture, <sup>14</sup> the red kite, any kind of black kite, <sup>15</sup> any kind of raven, <sup>16</sup> the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk, <sup>17</sup> the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl, <sup>18</sup> the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey, <sup>19</sup> the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and **the bat**.

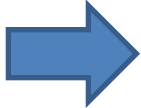
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**Skeptic says the bat is a mammal, not a bird – so the Bible is mistaken.**

 **But the problem is not with the Bible but with the translation – the word translated ‘bird’(fowl) is the Hebrew word “OPH” which means “winged creature” (This is the same word used back in Gen 1:20 on day 5 when God created all the “winged creatures)**

**The Bible classifies animals by where they live (or move in the air), not as birds, mammals, reptiles or our “modern’ classifications. The bat is certainly a ‘winged creature’ – so why is it considered unclean to be eaten?**

**Bats are a known carrier of rabies – the CDC reports that 70% of the cases of rabies in the US come from bats and exposure to them.**

**Rather than try to explain why they are to be avoided, God simply says his people are to avoid them as unclean.**

**Also remember when our “health officials’ tried to blame the corona virus on people eating bats from a market in China rather than a lab leak from “gain of function’ research (which is supposedly banned in the US)**



## Leviticus 11:13-19

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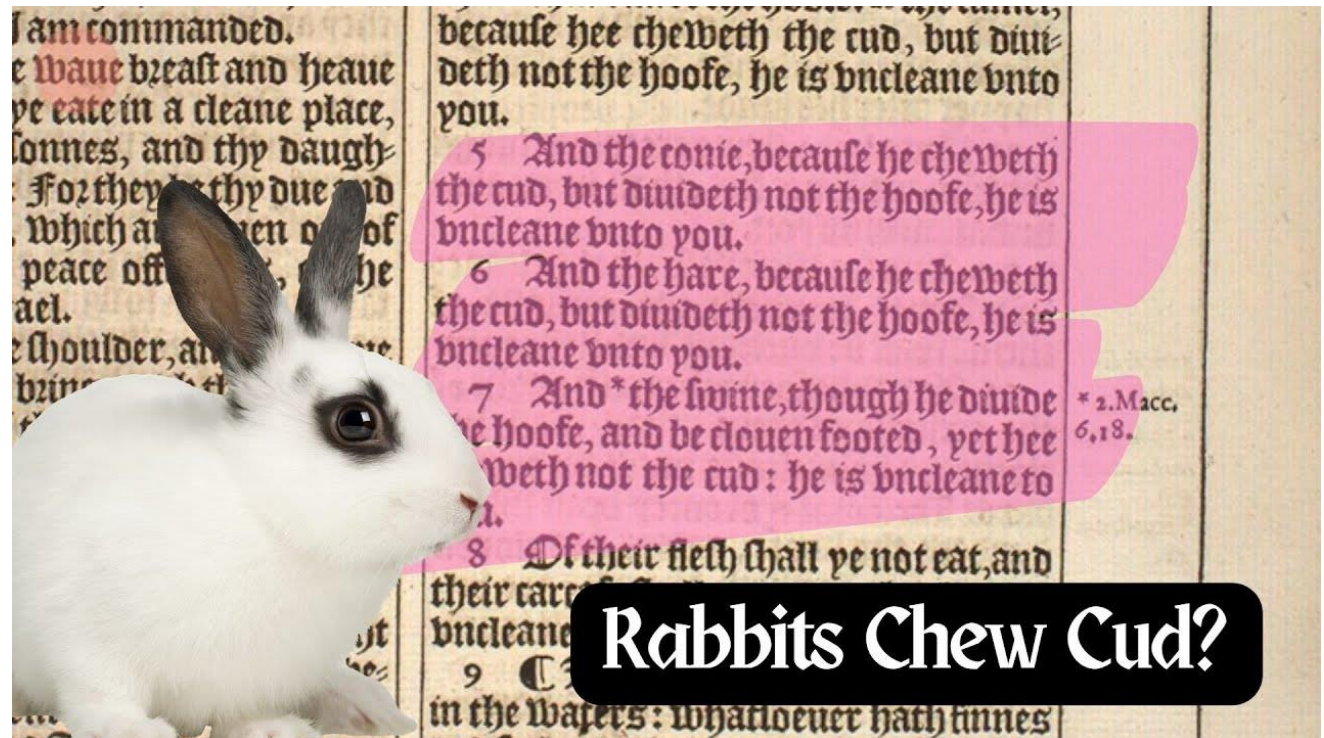


**The Hoopoe is a bird found in Europe, Asia, and Africa. It has toxins in its flesh and was not to be eaten.**

Leviticus 11:6

The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you.

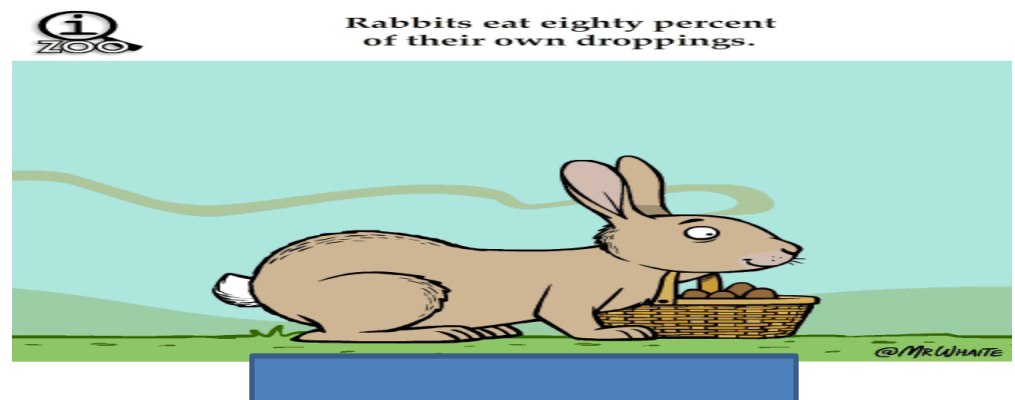
**Skeptics say that the rabbit does not have a compartmentalized stomach where it can regurgitate food and chew it again as cows and ruminates do – so the Bible has a mistake.**



Leviticus 11:6 The rabbit, **though it chews the cud**, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you.

But what does Moses mean by 'chew the cud' – does he mean that it chews its food again? (That is what the common use is) If so, the rabbit, while it does not have a divided stomach, does chew its food again by a process called refection.

Refection is when the rabbit passes partially digested food and then immediately eats up to half the droppings and chews them again to digest it a second time. This is necessary because of their plant based diet.



Leviticus 11:20

“**All fowls that walk on all fours** are to be regarded as unclean by you. (KJV)

**The skeptic says, what bird walk on four legs – birds only have two legs. So the Bible must be mistaken, but-**

Leviticus 11:20 “**All fowls that walk on all fours** are to be regarded as unclean by you. (KJV)

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**the problem again is the translation of the Hebrew words “sherets **op**” which does not mean ‘fowls’, but rather ‘creeping creatures **with wings**’. This “sherets” is the same words used in Gen 1:24-25 where it is translated ‘things that creep along the ground.’ So a better translation is:**

Leviticus 11:20’

**“All flying insects that walk on all fours are to be regarded as unclean by you.**

**Which leads to the next objection – if the word means ‘creeping things’ or insects – then why does it say:**

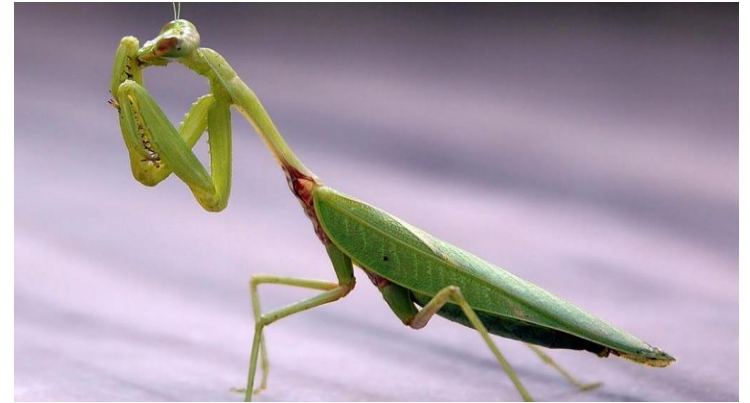
Leviticus 11:20-23

“**All flying insects that walk on all fours** are to be regarded as unclean by you. <sup>21</sup> There are, however, some flying insects **that walk on all fours** that you may eat: those that have jointed legs for hopping on the ground. <sup>22</sup> **Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket or grasshopper.** <sup>23</sup> But all other flying insects **that have four legs** you are to regard as unclean.

**The skeptic says – anyone knows that insects have six legs, not four – so here is another error in the Bible, but-**



A close examination of insects shows that while they have 6 appendages, only four are used for walking – the other two are used for jumping or grasping.



Whenever the Bible speaks about 'scientific' things  
– the information is correct.

The Bible agrees perfectly with true science, not  
with men's theories.

**The scientific 'errors' are the results of men's  
mistranslations of the original language, not God's  
words !**