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## Science and the Bible

Four free lectures sponsored by the Pine Street Presbyterian Church and the Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

**Featured speaker: Dr. Edward B. Davis, Distinguished Professor of the History of Science, Messiah College**



Dr. Davis will present a short course on “Science and the Bible” in four segments, covering five ways of approaching the subject. Topics include “young-earth” creationism, “old-earth” creationism, the framework view, theistic evolution, and intelligent design. Dr. Davis will identify the core beliefs and attitudes of each position, comment on its history, and identify some specific books and other materials representing that position. Ample time will be provided for questions from the audience. The series is designed for people with little or no prior knowledge of the general subject, but even those who are very familiar with the range of Christian views about science and the Bible will probably learn something new about each position. Dr. Davis does not aim to persuade anyone of the truth or falsity of any particular view; his goal is simply to help people understand the range of opinion about origins issues among American Christians today.

**Monday, June 28, 2010. Scientific Creationism (“young-earth” creationism).** Many conservative Protestants today support young-earth creationism, the view that the universe, earth, and living things were all specially created by God a few thousand years ago. Dr. Davis explains the main components of this view, which has been popular since the 1960s and is associated with creationist ministries such as Answers in Genesis (the organization directed by Ken Ham that owns the Creation Museum near Cincinnati) and the Institute for Creation Research.

**Monday, July 12, 2010. Concordism (“old-earth” or “progressive” creationism).** Since before the Civil War, many Christian authors have defended a “concordist” view of science and the Bible. Dr. Davis explains the two most popular types of concordism: the “gap” view and the “day-age” view. According to this position, an ancient earth and universe are compatible with Genesis, but biological evolution is not. A number of contemporary authors still hold a concordist view, such as Hugh Ross of Reasons to Believe, but it is not as popular as it was sixty or one hundred years ago.

**Monday, July 19, 2010. The Framework View and Theistic Evolution.** According to the framework view, the six days of creation in Genesis are arranged in two parallel sets (days 1-3 and 4-6) that are not sequential and that need not be taken

literally. Although elements of this view can be found in St Augustine and other earlier thinkers, it is a modern view that has become popular since the 1950s among Christians who accept evolution (“theistic evolutionists”), such as Francis Collins’ organization BioLogos. Some proponents of old-earth creationism also prefer this view to concordism.

**Monday, July 26, 2010. Intelligent Design.** It surprises many people to discover that intelligent design is not about the Bible at all, but that is how proponents of this view understand their own position. The idea that an intelligent mind lies behind the universe is older than Christianity itself, but the “intelligent design” movement arose in the 1990s under the direction of law professor Phillip Johnson. Dr. Davis examines both the ideas and the movement.

**Each lecture begins at 7:00 pm. A free-will offering will be collected. Location: Fellowship Hall, Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 310 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA.**

Dr. Edward (“Ted”) Davis is Distinguished Professor of the History of Science at Messiah College, where he teaches several courses about historical and contemporary aspects of science and the Christian faith. Dr. Davis is the editor (with Michael Hunter) of *The Works of Robert Boyle*, 14 vols. (1999-2000), and the author of dozens of articles for academic journals and popular magazines, including *American Scientist*, *The Christian Century*, and *First Things*. His essay on modern Jonah stories has been featured on two radio programs from the British Broadcasting Company. He is a former president of the American Scientific Affiliation ([www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org)), the oldest organization of Christians in the sciences in the United States.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis ([tdavis@messiah.edu](mailto:tdavis@messiah.edu)), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.