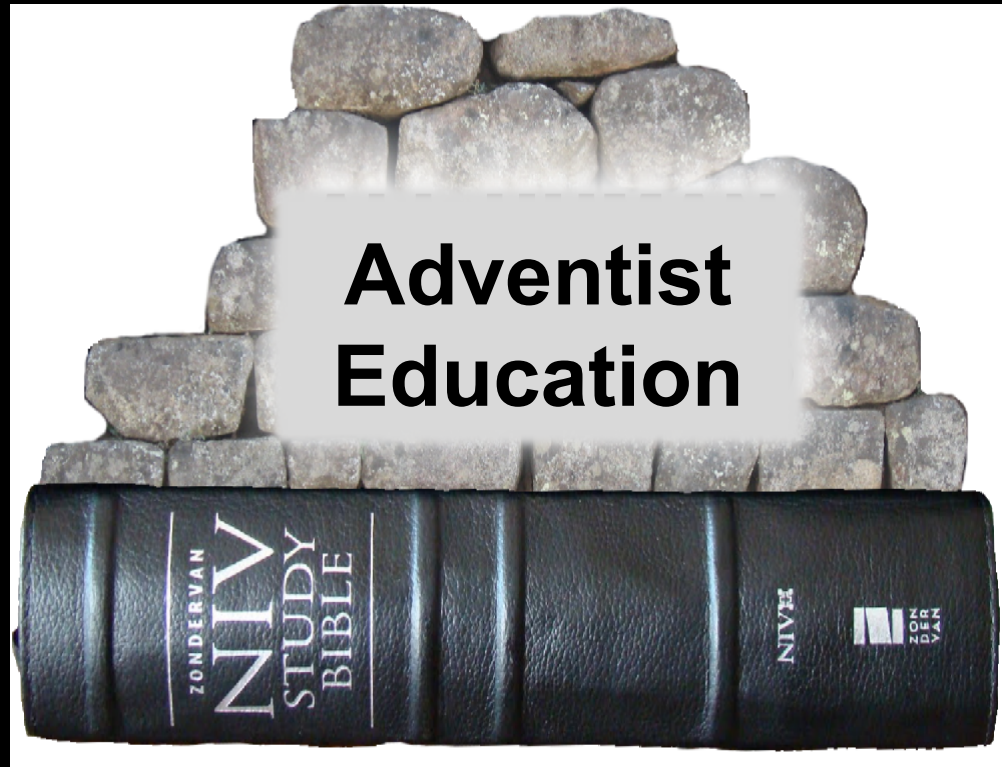


The Biblical Foundation for Adventist Education

By E. Edward Zinke
Illustrations by David Zinke
and Carol Raney
Motivation by Doug Zinke
and by Seven Grandchildren



***Principles for Biblical
Thought***

***Key Issues in Biblical Foundations
to Faith and Reason***

Key Issues in Biblical Foundations to Faith and Reason

- Knowledge of God is dependent upon His self-revelation
- The nature of the Bible – It is divinely revealed and therefore the foundation of human thought?

The Nature of the Bible

- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” 2 Tim 3:16
- Scripture came by the will of God, not by the will of man
2 Pet 1:21

Key Issues in Biblical Foundations to Faith and Reason

- The nature and source of human knowledge of God
- The nature of the Bible – Is it divinely revealed and therefore the foundation of human thought?
- The nature of theodicy – We do not bring God into judgment

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Hermeneutics

In harmony with its nature as the inspired Word of God, Scripture provides its own world view and methods of interpretation.

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- ❑ The Biblical concept of truth
- ❑ The nature of faith

The Logos

In the beginning was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the **light of men**. And the light shines in the darkness, and the **darkness did not comprehend it**. John 1:1-5 NKJV

Christ is the Light of the World

- In the context of His role in the creation of the universe and the declaration that He is the *Logos*, Christ is recognized to be the light of the world. Jn 1:4-11
- Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psa. 119:105
- The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
Psa.119:130

“Human knowledge of both material and spiritual things is partial and imperfect; therefore many are unable to harmonize their views of science with Scripture statements. Many accept mere theories and speculations as scientific facts, and they think that God’s Word is to be tested by the teachings of ‘science falsely so called.’ 1 Timothy 6:20.” --Great Controversy, p. 522.

Biblical Epistemology

- Pilot asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38)
- The One who was the way, the truth, the life was standing right before him. (John 14:6)
- God wants us to know Him, the only true God. (John 17:3)

Biblical Examples of Epistemology

- Adam & Eve
- Antediluvians
- Kadesh-barnea
- Christ

Noah – by faith Noah heeded the command of God (Hebrew 11:7). “The wise men of this world talked of **science and the fixed laws of nature**, and declared that there could be no variation in these laws, and that this message of Noah could not possibly be true. The talented men of Noah’s time set themselves in league against God’s will and purpose, and **scorned** the message and the messenger that he had sent. When they could not move Noah from his firm and implicit trust in the word of God, they pointed to him as a fanatic, as a ranting old man, full of superstition and madness.

Thus they condemned him because he would not be turned from his purpose by **reasonings and theories** of men. It was true that Noah could **not controvert their philosophies, or refute the claims of science so called;** but he could **proclaim the word of God;** for he knew it contained the infinite wisdom of the creator, and, as he sounded it everywhere, **it lost none of its force and reality** because men of the world treated him with ridicule and contempt.” *Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1895, pp. 243-44

Abraham – “By **faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.’ Hebrews 11:3. Abraham’s unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible. To him, faith was ‘the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’ Verse 1.

Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead.... **He could not even explain** his course of action so as to be understood by his friends.

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned, and his motives and actions were not comprehended by his idolatrous kindred.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 126

Kadesh-barnea:

- Giants in the land
- Weapons we have never seen
- Soldiers well trained for battle
- Passes fortified
- 10 spies – therefore we should not go
 - illustration of a **humanistic faith**
- 2 spies – no disagreement with data
 - **decision made with eyes of faith**

Christ

- “It is written.” (Matt 4:4, 7, 10)
- The temptation took place right after the baptism of Christ and the declaration that He was the Son of God
- The temptation was to doubt the Word of God – the same temptation that Adam and Eve had in Eden

Humanistic Faith

Begins with doubt
Attempts to prove the Bible worthy of our
faith



Humanistic Faith

- Relies on capabilities of man
- Relies on the five senses
- Looks for patterns
- Forms a hypothesis and testable predictions
- Results in more observations

Humanistic Faith

The result is a probability statement as to what things are like or as to how new pieces of data entering the system will relate to the old.

Humanistic Faith

In summary, the data is brought together in such a way as to yield a conclusion, a faith statement as to how things probably are. **The conclusion is in the hand of mankind.** It is under human control, it is a human achievement, and it is created upon human basis such as reason, sense experience or some other faculty of mankind

Biblical Faith

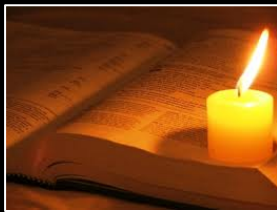
- Faith is not a human creation; it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8) in order that faith might not rest on the wisdom of man but in the power of God (1 Cor 2:4, 5).
- Gift from God



Biblical Faith

- Faith is itself the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of thing not seen Heb 11:1
- We walk by faith, not by sight 2 Cor 5:7
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God Rom 10:17

Biblical Faith



- The spirit and Word work together. “No man can create faith. The Spirit operating upon and enlightening the human mind creates faith in God.” *7BC* p.

To attempt to use the data of reason as criteria for determining whether Scripture is the Word of God is to **doubt** that which has already been declared by God. It is similar to Christ's temptation in the wilderness, namely, to doubt that He was the Son of God after "it had already been affirmed by the Word of God. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures." *DA* p. 72; cf. *GW* p. 260; *EW* p. 72

Biblical Faith

Faith in the Word of God is not based upon humanistically derived knowledge; rather faith itself is the foundation of knowledge.

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.” (Heb 11:3).

EGW on Faith

“Only in the light of revelation can it (nature) be read aright.” *Ed* p. 134 “Faith is the key of knowledge.” *Ed* p. 24, *DA* p. 139 It is the basis for discerning between truth and error *1 SM* p. 346, *TM* p. 229

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rm 11:17). The assurance and evidence for faith is God’s Word *2 SM* p. 243

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

For Jews request a **sign**, and Greeks seek after **wisdom**; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a **stumbling block** and to the **Greeks foolishness**, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God.**” 1 Cor 1:21--24

“And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” 1 Cor 2:4, 5



Salvation by Faith Parallel Understanding by the Word of God

Sola Gratia

- There is nothing I can do on my own to obtain righteousness.
- Righteousness is not to be manipulated by humans.
- Righteousness rests upon the gift of God alone.
- Works follow naturally from the receipt of the gift of God's salvation.
- Works never form the basis of our salvation.

Sola Scriptura

- There is nothing I can do on my own to obtain special revelation.
- Revelation is not to be manipulated by humans.
- Revelation rests upon the gift of God alone.
- Epistemological works follow naturally from the receipt of God's Word.
- Humanistic epistemologies are not the true foundation of our knowledge.

God has given us our minds, feelings, interpersonal relationships, etc. All of these are important to who we are. God desires that we use our talents to the fullest, including our reason and ability to observe. These talents are given to be used in harmony with God's Word rather than over against it.

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- ❑ The nature of theodicy
- ❑ Hermeneutics – does the Bible provides the basis for its appropriate hermeneutic and its own world view within which to interpret it?
- ❑ The Biblical concept of truth
- ❑ The nature of faith and the role of data
- ❑ The nature of freedom

Humanistic Concept of Freedom

- **Autonomy** - independent
- Free from every human institution
- Free from authority of the Bible
- Acquisition of truth is **independent** of God and His Word
- The possibility of truth in the Bible must be determined on a **humanistic** basis rather than by divine inspiration

Biblical Concept of Freedom

- **Absolute independence** from God is sin – the original sin of Lucifer, to ascend into heaven and become like God Is 14:13, 14
- We are either slaves of sin or God
Rm 6:18-22

Humanistic Concept

- We are free to determine our own truth to decide how to relate to Christ

Biblical Concept

- We are free when we come to Christ Jn 8:36; Gal 5:1
- We shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free Jn 8:32

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- ❑ The nature of freedom
- ❑ The power of the Word of God under the Holy Sprit

The Power of the Word of God

The power of:

Science

Philosophy

History

Psychology

Sociology

Etc.

- The power of the Word of God

- Under the Holy Spirit



Conversion



***Ellen White and the
Role of the Bible in
Obtaining Knowledge***

Authority of the Bible

- “The Bible is **God’s voice speaking** to us just as surely as though we could hear Him with our ears.” HP p. 134

Authority of the Bible

- "He [Christ] pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority, and we should do the same. The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God, as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith." COL pp. 39, 40

Authority of the Bible

- "Leave the impression upon the mind that the Bible, and the **Bible alone**, is our rule of faith, and that the sayings and doings of **men are not to be a criterion** for our doctrines or actions," *CSW* p. 84
- "The Bible, and the **Bible alone**, is to be our creed, and sole **bond of union**; all who bow to this Holy Word will be in harmony. Man is fallible, but God's Word is infallible." *1 SM* p. 416
- "The Bible is an **unerring guide**." *4T* p. 312

- **Basis of religion**
- **Basis of faith**
- **Test of inspiration**
- **Test for the operation of the Holy Spirit**
- **Guide to life**
- **Rule of conscience**
- **Standard of character**
- **Only basis of happiness**

Authority Over the Senses

Are the people of God now so firmly established upon **His word** that they would **not yield to the evidence of their senses**? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only?" GC p. 625

Basis of Knowledge, Truth, and Education

The Bible is to be made the basis of all **education.**" *FE* p. 490

"The Bible must be made the **foundation for all study.**" *FE* p. 451

Basis of Knowledge of God and Christ

"Searching the **Scriptures alone** will bring the knowledge of the true God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent." *FE* p. 415

Foundation for the Study of Science

"Apart from Christ, science is misleading and philosophy is foolishness." *MM* p. 91

Foundation for the Study of Science

“The greatest minds, **if not guided by the word of God**, become bewildered in their attempts to investigate the relations of science and revelation. The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because these cannot be explained by natural laws, **Bible history** is pronounced **unreliable**.

Foundation for the Study of Science

"In true science there can be **nothing
contrary** to the teaching of the word
of God, for both have the **same
Author.**" 87 pp. 251, 258

Foundation for the Study of Science

"He who has a knowledge of God and His word through personal experience has a settled faith in the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. He has proved that God's word is truth, and he knows that truth can never contradict itself. He **does not test the Bible by men's ideas of science; he brings these ideas to the test of the unerring standard.**

Foundation for the Study of Science

- He knows that in true science there can be nothing contrary to the teaching of the word; since both have the same Author, a correct understanding of both will prove them to be in harmony. **Whatever in so-called scientific teaching contradicts the testimony of God's word is mere human guesswork."** *MH* p. 462

Foundation for the Study of Science

“But apart from Bible history, geology
can prove nothing.” *PP* p. 112

Basis of an Understanding of History

"In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counter play of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsel of His own will." *Ed* p. 173

Basis of an Understanding of History

Here only do we find an authentic account of the origin of nations. . . .
The Bible reveals the true philosophy of history. Ed 173

- Key to Philosophy
- Basis of Principles of True Psychology
- Basis of National Prosperity

General Warnings About Placing Other Authorities Above the Bible

“The **Word** of the Lord is not to be
judged by a human standard.” 5T p.
301

General Warnings About Placing Other Authorities Above the Bible

“Men consider themselves wiser than the Word of God, wiser even than God; and instead of planting their feet on the immovable foundation, and bringing everything to the test of God’s word, they test that word by their own ideas of science and nature, and if it seems not to agree with their scientific ideas, it is discarded as unworthy of credence.” *Signs of the Times*, March 27, 1844, p. 139.

General Warnings About Placing Other Authorities Above the Bible

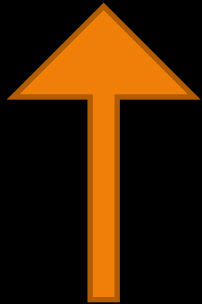
“Man’s inventions are not only unreliable, they are dangerous; for they **place man where God should be**. They place the sayings of men where a ‘Thus saith the Lord’ should be.” COL p. 110

General Warnings About Placing Other Authorities Above the Bible

Men “set up their judgment as superior to the word; and the Scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed.” *Ibid.* p. 39.

Possible Relations Between Science & Scripture

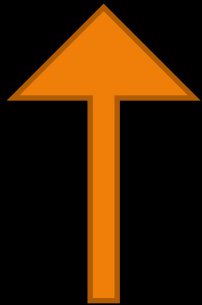
Human Studies ALONE	Integration of Nature AND the Bible	Separation of Nature & the Bible	Nature AND the Bible with the Bible as Foundation
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Human studies ALONE are the absolute foundation for all knowledge whether it comes from nature or from the Bible.

Possible Relations Between Science & Scripture

Human Studies ALONE	Synthesis of Nature AND the Bible	Separation of Nature & the Bible	Nature AND the Bible with the Bible as Foundation
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No valid truth in the Bible apart
from human verification

Possible Relations Between Science & Scripture

Human Studies ALONE	Synthesis of Nature AND the Bible	Separation of Nature & the Bible	Nature AND the Bible with the Bible as Foundation
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Truth is truth,
wherever it
may be found.



All truth is God's truth
integration of nature
AND The Bible

Possible Relations Between Science & Scripture

Human Studies ALONE	Synthesis of Nature AND the Bible	Separation of Nature & the Bible	Nature AND the Bible with the Bible as Foundation
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Science deals with nature **ALONE**, and the Bible deals with religion **ALONE**. They should be kept separate.



Both may be understood **completely on their own**.

Possible Relations Between Science & Scripture

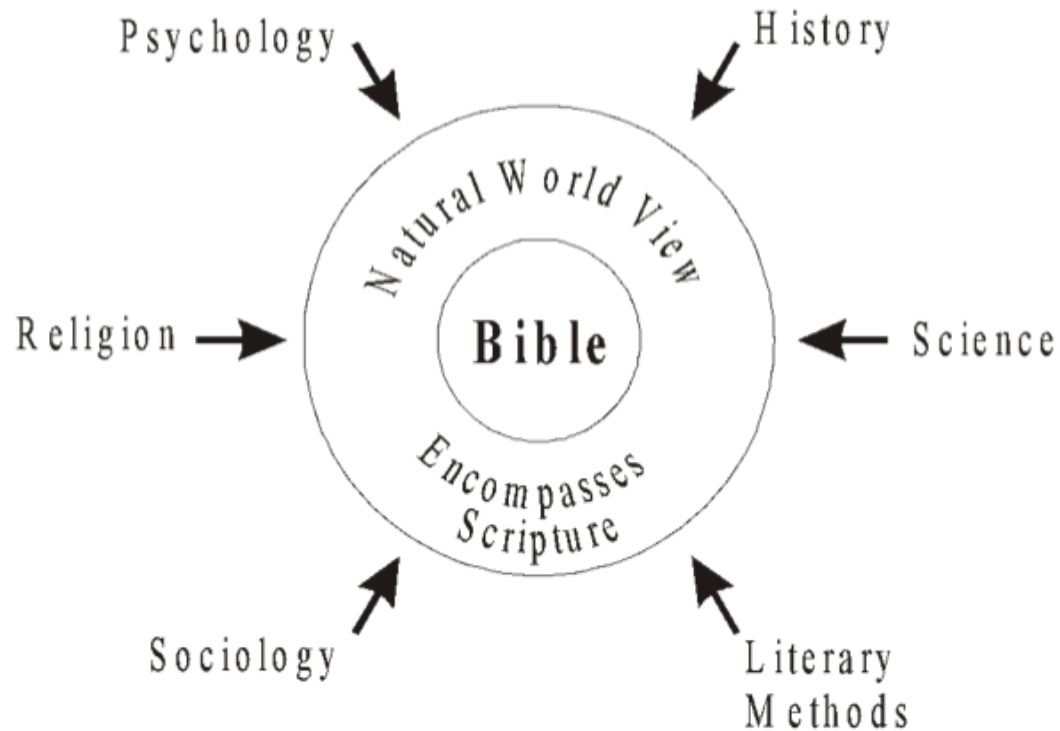
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God has revealed Himself both in nature and in the Bible. Both should be studied from the foundation of the Bible **ALONE**.



Bible Critical Studies

The Natural World Order Provides the
Context for the Study of Scripture



Bible Studies Arising Out of Scripture

Scripture reveals the nature of reality
within which human disciplines may be
properly carried out.





LOVE

WRATH

IMMANENCE

TRANSCENDENCE

GRACE

LAW

FAITH

REASON

**HUMAN NATURE
OF CHRIST**

**DIVINE NATURE
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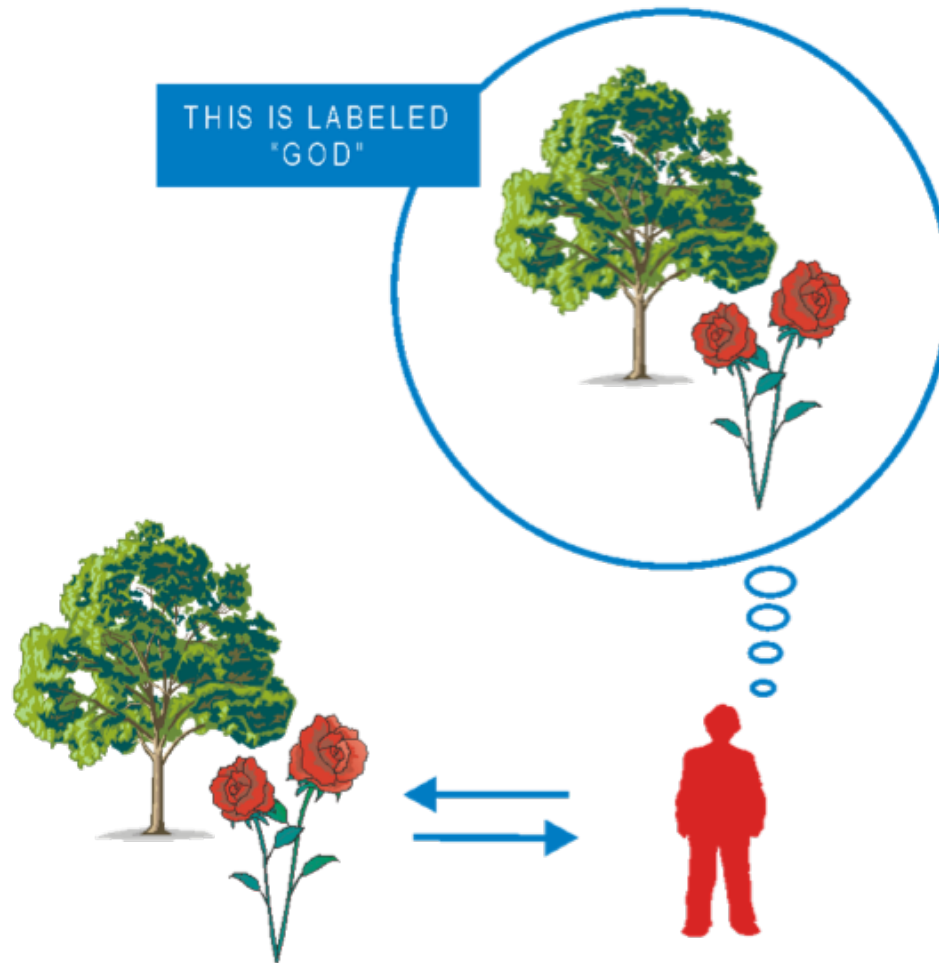
FAITH

REASON

**HUMAN NATURE
OF CHRIST**

**DIVINE NATURE
OF CHRIST**

When man attempts to arrive at knowledge of God from a starting point in the world, God can be nothing other than what lies within the possible experience, imagination, or reason of man.



DESCRIBE THE ROCKS IN THE PILE

THEY RANGE IN SIZE
FROM 1 cm.
TO 20 cm.



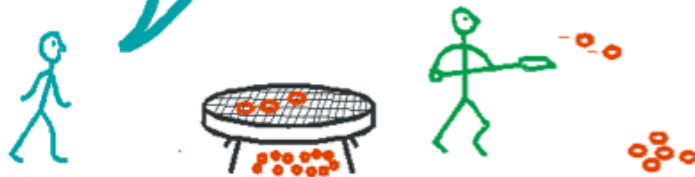
NO, WE CAN DETERMINE
THE SIZE OF THE ROCKS
ONLY AFTER THEY HAVE
PASSED THROUGH A
1 cm. WIRE MESH



DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
THERE ARE NO ROCKS IN
THAT PILE LARGER THAN
1 cm.



BUT WHY ARE YOU
DISCARDING THE REST?



BECAUSE THEY DO NOT
FIT THE STANDARD OF
ROCKPILES AS DEFINED
BY MY WIRE MESH



Dialogue: God and the Modern Theologian



I have a message for my people.
I would like to speak.

Who is that speaking? Could it be God?
If it is He must surely recognize the
insurmountable problems this would
present to secular society.



I have a message to give my people.

Hum! There's that voice again.
Could it possibly be God? It may take several
years of work to discover whether it is
scientifically or historically or experimentally
possible for God to speak.
I'll let Him know if I discover a way.



I have a message which must be given now.

Theological Silence

The theologian could not hear
because he had not yet found
a way to solve God's problem.



