

A Response to Matthew Sokoloski's Review  
Of Nobie Stone's book, *Genesis 1 and Lessons From Space* (Revised edition)

Matthew Sokoloski, who teaches in the Humanities department at Faulkner University, wrote a review of Nobie Stone's book, *Genesis 1 and Lessons From Space* (revised edition, January, 2017) that was published by the Warren Christian Apologetics Center in *Sufficient Evidence*, Fall, 2017. I would like to respond to Sokoloski's review with regard to several important points.

First, Sokoloski states, "Faith is a relationship of trust that begins with reason and then goes beyond." Sokoloski does not completely quote, in this place, what Nobie Stone actually said. Stone states, "We can, therefore, conclude that faith and reason are not mutually exclusive; faith begins with reason—rooted in experience that satisfies the mind—and then goes beyond reason." Sokoloski does not recognize the contradiction that Nobie Stone makes in this statement or else he agrees with it. Nobie Stone affirms that God does not require us to have a "blind faith." Then, he states that faith must go beyond reason. This is a contradiction. Stone affirms this because he does not believe that we must have absolute proof for anything and this would include our faith. There is some evidence, but not absolute evidence according to Stone. This means that at some point faith makes a leap and this leap is called *blind faith*. When faith goes beyond reason, where does it end up? Sokoloski says it just goes "beyond."

Second, Sokoloski states, "Chapters four and five take us on a tour of the Cosmos and then narrows the focus to the special features of the Earth. It is in these two chapters where Stone's book shines." In chapter four, Stone reveals that he is a theistic evolutionist. Sokoloski never mentions this fact in his review. Why not? Sokoloski's statement affirms, either wittingly or unwittingly, that Stone really shines as a theistic evolutionist! Sokoloski claims that he reviews the strengths and weaknesses of Stone's book. He completely misses the error of Nobie Stone in affirming Theistic Evolution.

In Chapter four, Nobie Stone attempts to harmonize Genesis 1 with the Big Bang Theory. Sokoloski hails this as a strength. In reality, it is a major flaw. Sokoloski states, "By pairing the discussion of the Big Bang Theory with a closer look at Genesis 1:1, the reader will gain a deeper appreciation for this short yet profound verse." The pairing of the Big Bang Theory with Genesis 1 is an attempt to harmonize God's Word with a false theory (evolution). This compromise is called *Theistic Evolution*. Theistic Evolution violates the law of non-contradiction. The law of non-contradiction states that a proposition cannot both be true and false at the same time. The inherent contradiction involved in Theistic Evolution is that chance and design can function together to produce all living species. Evolutionists argue that all living species are the result of blind chance (Darwin and Associates). However, it is impossible for accident (chance) to produce invention (design). Creationists argue that all living species are the result of design (God). The two concepts cannot both be true at the same time (see *Theistic Evolution*, J. P. Moreland, Stephen C. Meyer, Christopher Shaw, Ann K. Gauger, and Wayne Grudem, chapters by Douglas Axe (83-ff) and Matti Leisola (139-ff).

In chapter four, Nobie Stone reinterprets Genesis 1 and affirms that the days of creation were not twenty-four hour periods but vast eons of time or if they were twenty-four hour periods, the days may have been separated by vast eons of time. Nobie Stone holds to evolutionary chronology with respect to the age of the universe and the age of the earth. Sokoloski never mentions any of these facts in his review. Why not?

Also in chapter four, Nobie Stone introduces false science in order to support the Big Bang Theory. The false science is the *inflation theory* of the universe. Stone affirms that this is a fact. But, it is now known to be false (*Scientific American*, February, 2017). It was known to be false long before Nobie Stone wrote his revision (Jan. 2017). This fact brings Nobie Stone's scholarship into question. I exposed this fact in my own review of Nobie Stone's book on my blog: [www.biblicalinsights.net](http://www.biblicalinsights.net).

Third, Sokoloski affirms, "I have always thought of our reason as pointing the direction our faith should go. Faith may go beyond reason, but it should not contradict reason." If faith goes beyond reason where does it end up? *Beyond reason* means *beyond the evidence*. Does Sokoloski believe that our faith as Christians is **not** based upon the infallible evidence given in Scripture?

Fourth, Sokoloski writes, "First, the book accomplishes its goal of taking lessons from space and relating current astrophysics and the planetary sciences to our understanding of Genesis chapter one." Actually, the book fails miserably here because it uses a false theory (inflation theory) to support the Big Bang Theory and we know that this theory is false. The *Scientific American* article is titled, "Cosmic Inflation Theory Faces Challenges." The headlines read, "The latest astrophysical measurements, combined with theoretical problems, cast doubt on the long-cherished inflationary theory of the early cosmos and suggest we need new ideas" (*Seek the Old Paths*, February, 2018, 11). The inflation theory is the current astrophysical explanation regarding the beginning of the universe. It has been falsified. Sokoloski never mentions this fact in his review.

Fifth, Sokoloski correctly sees the major problem with Nobie Stone's book. Stone's epistemology (view of knowledge) is fundamentally flawed. Stone is inextricably involved in logical self-contradiction. He states over and over again that we cannot know anything absolutely. But, this very axiom is a claim to absolute knowledge about knowledge. Stone is affirming, "I absolutely know that we cannot know anything absolutely." Sokoloski sees this important flaw. He writes, "Stone's position limits us to the realm of the probable, not only in empirical claims, but also in matters of faith and knowledge in general." Sokoloski believes that Stone would say religious knowledge is not possible. Stone's false view of knowledge undermines the entire thesis of the book.

Sixth, Sokoloski affirms, "I would argue that absolute proof is not something necessary for certain knowledge. Notions of absolute proof are going to vary from person to person." Absolute proof is not dependent upon one's subjective point of view. Absolute proof is objective truth. Whenever Jesus performed a miracle, unbelievers attributed it to the power of Beelzebub. They could not deny the miracle. Did this act of unbelief change the nature of the miracle or its objective truthfulness? Absolutely not! Did the miracle prove anything? Did it prove it absolutely? Did the proof result in certain knowledge? Consider the resurrection of Jesus Christ in light of these questions.

The Bible is a source of infallible, objective, truth from which we derive propositions to make deductive arguments. Unbelief rejects the truth regardless of the validity of its proofs (miracles). Truth is that which conforms to reality as God defines reality. The Word of God was confirmed by many infallible proofs which are true whether or not people believe them. Absolute proof is essential for certain knowledge. Knowledge of the truth is the foundation of Christian faith.

Seventh, Sokoloski makes this incredible statement toward the conclusion of his review, "I believe this to be a great apologetic book in regards to astrophysics and the planetary sciences

that will engage and encourage many Christian readers.” This book, published by the Warren Christian Apologetics Center, affirms without any refutation, the following errors: theistic evolution, the falsified inflation theory, the false Big Bang theory, and mitigated skepticism (agnosticism). It also fails in logic by affirming logical self-contradiction, a violation of the law of non-contradiction, and the obvious contradiction: a blind faith and no blind faith. It attacks the veracity of the Scriptures, calls God a liar by denying Exodus 20:11; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6; and II Pet. 3:4, defeats the chronology of the Bible and the chronology of the lineage of Jesus Christ thereby attacking His deity (Luke 3). This is not a great apologetic book. This book should be pulled immediately from public sale by the Warren Christian Apologetics Center. **It utterly destroys the integrity of this apologetics center and brings shame and reproach on the name of Thomas B. Warren.**