

that modern quantum mechanics and the uncertainty principle have shown Newton's laws of motion, formulated in the seventeenth century, to be incorrect. Newton's laws are incorrect for the smallest particles, particles which were unknown in the seventeenth century, but those laws are correct (within experimental error) for the larger objects for which the laws were formulated.⁶

A further misunderstanding concerning certainty in science often arises from rumors that there is great disagreement between scientists on a given subject. Sometimes such disagreements are sensationally publicized in the popular news media. But when we examine each case we almost invariably find that the disagreements do not affect the well established principles of the particular science involved, but only have to do with the finer details of new, related discoveries. For example, the Deep Sea Drilling Project, currently being conducted by the National Science Foundation, is bringing to light many new facts concerning the sediments on the ocean floors. But this research is not destroying our knowledge of the nature of the numerous sediments which have already been studied during the past 100 years.⁷

Truth and Scientific Observation

Can science discover truth? In order to answer this question we can go back to the fact that science devotes its attention to observing God's revelation in nature, which was discussed near the beginning of this chapter. Since God has incorporated a limited revelation of himself into nature, and since the Bible encourages us to accept human powers of observation as reliable, it follows that certain truths can be derived from nature through scientific observation. We are not speaking here of spiritual truths, but of the truth which concerns the natural world. Thus the discoveries of the need for oxygen and of the flow of blood through the heart are truths concerning nature, discovered by science. These facts are true, not because science discovered them, but because they were known in the mind of God long before man discovered them.

We most certainly regard the Word of God, as spoken by Christ, the apostles, and the prophets, and as recorded in the Bible, as absolute truth. However, there is the question, "Are God's words more true than his acts?" It is well known that corn plants produce sugar, and that this sugar can be extracted for the making of syrup and other food products. The reason that corn plants produce sugar is that God made them with this ability. Now, since God is the creator of this ability in corn plants, is not the fact that they produce sugar just as true as the things God sets forth in language? That is, are not the things which God does just as true as the things He says? Thus, can we not say that it is just as true that corn plants produce sugar, as that the Israelites once lived in Egypt, or that the disciples caught fish in the sea of Galilee? One of these facts was discovered by science; the other two are stated in the Bible, but all three surely must be equally true.⁸

We do want to make clear here that we are not saying that truth