

Man's Limited Knowledge

by Charles A. Clough

[Edited by TWW from Charles A. Clough's "*Framework*" series of 224 lectures. These notes were written to help explain the diagram that Clough uses while demonstrating that the assertions of science, related to their histories of nature, are as much based on faith as their arguments against the Christian viewpoint are disingenuous.]

"Modern science" sometimes asserts that religion is based on subjective faith in unverifiable myths, which were originated by superstitious ancients. Opposing this "subjective" religious faith is "objective" modern science, based on proven facts. Consequently, scientists ridicule Christians for believing in the inerrancy of the Scriptures. Clough asserts that their ridicule and arguments are disingenuous, in that they, also, believe in inerrancy. The only difference is that they move inerrancy to a different location; the inerrancy to which they hold is located in their own minds.

Clough uses the diagram (on the following page) to depict how all scientific knowledge, indeed all of man's experience, is local, both in Time and in Space. The data used by all scientists, must of necessity come from within the shaded part of the diagram. If you are having difficulty understanding the diagram, it may lie in our being used to chronological time on the X-axis—having past history on the left and the future progressing to the right. Please notice that Time on the X-axis is not chronological time, but rather increasing quantities of time, from tiny units of time on the left to large extents of time on the right.

In Time, all of us live in the "Direct Observation" box (with the vertical lines), bounded on the left by units of time in some fraction of one second (where $10^{-1} = 1/10$ second), and bounded on the right by units of time about one long lifetime (note that $10^{9.5}$ seconds = 100 years). Scientists can observe action in smaller units of time, to the left in the diagram, with ultraspeed film. Furthermore, they can read "Historical Testimony" (box with the horizontal lines), expanding their knowledge base by a few millennia in time (note that $10^{11.2}$ seconds = 5,000 years). Scientists can go only so far to the right, by reading others' accounts. But, none of us can go to the right of the vertical line—beyond the wall of silence—before written history.

The Y-axis depicts how scientists can also mitigate their being limited in Space, by observing God's creation in larger spatial units with the use of telescopes, and in smaller spatial units with the use of microscopes.

But, in the end, they (we) are limited to a small fleck in time and space. All of their "science" about what happened more than a few thousand years ago, must be pure conjecture. Their faith is in their own abilities, deductions, and conjectures; but it is nothing else, other than faith.

They certainly have no "objective scientific data" to prove anything about how the universe came into being, much less why we are here.

The Space / Time Domain of the Acquisition Of All Human Knowledge

