

This video, *Experiments in Stratification*, is the main part of this lesson. The additional notes and links below are secondary. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/wFST2C32hMQ>

The three-minute intro to Cold-Case Christianity for Kids informs us that Christian kids often lose their faith in college (if not before) because they have not had intellectual doubts adequately answered, and they cannot stand up to the social, moral, and intellectual challenges to their faith. These doubts often begin well before high school. Kids could be prepared with the intellectual tools to properly answer such questions beginning in elementary school. Many adults are not prepared to answer children's questions, and they may have unresolved doubts themselves. There is an engaging program prepared to equip kids (and adults) with the intellectual resources they need to stand confident in their faith. Scroll down on the right side of <http://coldcasechristianity.com/> to watch an intro to the kids' program.

The scriptures speak much about eyewitnesses, accurate records, seeing, hearing, touching, weighing evidence, history, faith based on evidence, and avoidance of error. Science, too, tests theories by observation, critical evaluation, falsification, and openness to examination. Although one can find many versions of the steps in the scientific method, Wikipedia summarizes like this: "The overall process involves making conjectures (hypotheses), deriving predictions from them as logical consequences, and then carrying out experiments based on those predictions to determine whether the original conjecture was correct. There are difficulties in a formulaic statement of method, however. Though the scientific method is often presented as a fixed sequence of steps, they are better considered as general principles. Not all steps take place in every scientific inquiry (or to the same degree), and are not always in the same order."

Operational science, which has produced our great technological advances, relies heavily on repeatability of experiments, while historical or origins science looks for predictions or observations that support hypotheses or theories about unrepeatable events, much like a cold-case detective or forensic scientist would examine evidence to solve a case or support a scenario. Here is a good discussion of the value of both operational and historical science: <http://kgov.com/bel/20150213>

Some Relevant Scriptures

2 Peter 1:16–21 (NKJV)

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 1:1–3 (NKJV)

What Was Heard, Seen, and Touched

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:1–4 (NKJV)

The Purpose and Method of Luke’s Gospel

1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

John 3:12 (NKJV)

12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

John 5:46–47 (NKJV)

46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

Luke 16:29–31 (NKJV)

29 Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

John 13:19 (NKJV)

19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

Psalms 119:99 (NKJV)

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

John 7:17 (NKJV)

17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

Proverbs 18:17 (NKJV)

17 The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

Isaiah 41:21–23 (NKJV)

21 “Present your case,” says the LORD. “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob. 22 “Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. 23 Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together.”

Isaiah 45:21 (NKJV)

21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

We may be looking at the same data. <https://youtu.be/i3TgYEGbnUM>

But assumptions or preconceptions can alter our understanding of the data.

<https://youtu.be/7f1G6Nx5VDw>

Have many scientists been operating from such an apparently obvious assumption that it became a largely incorrect preconception without even being tested? The principles of stratigraphy have formed the prevailing view of earth's geological history. But are these principles really scientific principles? What have actual experiments in stratigraphy and actually observed events in history revealed?

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