CONFRONTATION WITH QUANTIFICATION Copyright, J. Michael Strawn

From EVERYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE. BIBLICAL FAITH EQUALS THE CONFRONTATION WITH QUANTIFICATION

In all faith passages in Scripture, there is a certain kind of contradiction. On the one hand, there is the reality of God and his power over time; and on the other hand there is the human intuition toward the practice of quantification.

- Lazarus was dead and buried 4 days (John 11).
- o Abraham and Sarai were too many years in infertility (Genesis 16).
- Israel quantified all known obstacles (Numbers 13, 14). The measurable magnitudes of Sinai (Exodus 1-17).
- The issue of quantification for a king (2 Chronicles 20).
- Quantification of wealth (Luke 16).

But the people of faith did something else. They elevated faith in God above quantification.

Scientific Core Theory (the idea that everything is physics: atomic structure, mankind as a collection of insensate atoms that thus have no inherent moral meaning) reverses that. Those who choose to live by faith are always confronted by quantification: there is always the "too dead," "too large," "too small," "too sick," "too late," "too many," "too poor," "too much."

To treat quantification as causal is idolatry (Isaiah 42-46.) It becomes God. Human beings will inevitably quantify. However, Scripture reveals that quantification is the effect of God: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

So there is an invisible eternal dynamic at work behind all quantification. "This is the word of the Lord...saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

Generalization: all quantifications are bordered by the reality of God. This is without exception according to Scripture.

Interrogative: Should revealed truth affect quantification?