

*The Intimate Connection
Between
Physics and Theology*

HUI-YIING CHANG

Abstract:

Knowledge of physics is an indispensable tool in interpreting the Bible. The fundamental physical principles reflect the nature of God's Kingdom and His work. The application of classical and modern theories of physics reflects the absolute nature of God and how He allows relativism in the intermediate process to glorify Himself ultimately. The triune nature of God is reflected in the dimensions of existence. The hierarchical and coherent nature of physical principles refutes randomness, but reflects the predetermination of spiritual phenomena. The reconciliation of simplicity with sophistication describes the elegant nature of God and the Gospel, as well as the infinite ways it can be elaborated to glorify God endlessly.

Physical phenomena, although appearing to progress in straight lines, really progress in curves when viewed in their entirety. The straight progress depicts the intermediate stage in God's Kingdom, but the curve its fulfillment. The asymptotic increase explains the seeming hopelessness of Christ's redemptive work and its ultimate triumph as it soars to infinity. Our lens of vision could be adjusted to varying degrees of temporal and spatial specificity to accommodate a larger view of God's plan.

The mystical synchronization of beauty and goodness exists in God's Kingdom and physical theories. The contrast of physical progress in the opposite direction immediately preceding the onset of a new state is analogous to spiritual phenomena, where aesthetic and logical principles are fulfilled. In conclusion, it is wise to advocate the instruction of physics at the different levels of education.

Relativism versus Absolutism

Physics

- Quantum mechanics was founded around the same time as special relativity by Albert Einstein; both fields form the foundation of modern physics.
- In relativity, an entity's temporal and spatial values are based on its context.
- However, after a protract period of time, quantum mechanical phenomena return to conformity with the classical laws of physics.

Theology

- Good and evil are juxtaposed in order that the former will be illuminated while the latter exposed;
- The absolute natures of both are enhanced relative to each other in this realm, before the ultimate triumph of good.
- Romans 9:17– God had hardened Pharaoh's heart in order to glorify Himself.

The Trinity

Physics

Existence consists of time and space, which consist of 3 dimensions— past, present and future; and length, breadth and height, respectively.

Theology

God exists in the Trinity— Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each playing roles in different dimensions.

One Grand Hierarchical Scheme

Physics

- Universal phenomena are governed by a few simple, elegant principles.
- From them flow the ancillary principles, from which flow the ancillary principles, from which flow the ancillary principles... This process continues infinitely.
- Therefore, all the principles cohere in a one grand, hierarchical scheme; the concept of randomness is invalid.

Theology

- All spiritual phenomena are predetermined by God.
- Romans 8:29– Predestination
- I Peter 2:20– The Lamb was foreordained before the foundation of the world.

- God's instruction for our living is summed up in the 10 commandments (Exodus 20:3–17), which are represented by 2 main commandments:
 - Matthew 22:37– Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
 - Matthew 22:39– Love thy neighbor as thyself.
- They are elaborated infinitely in their application to all situations of life.
- God is the author of all true knowledge, which can be elaborated endlessly in the different disciplines of arts and sciences to reflect and explain God.

Entire Progress in Curves

Physics

- Physical phenomena progress in curves in their completion.
 - Eg. entire orbits of planets
 - Eg. acceleration and deceleration of objects under the influence of gravity (fig. 1.1)

Theology

- In the Old Testament, tithing involved giving a tenth of one's income (Genesis 14:20, Hebrews 7:2).
- When tithe is charted over a range of income levels, the graph is straight (fig. 1.2).
- In the New Testament, Christ has fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17).
- Every person is called to give "according as he purposeth is his heart" (II Corinthians 9:7).
- That involves compassion, which moves us to give to those in need (Ephesians 4:28).
- The poor ends up giving less and the rich more.
- The graph bends downward at the beginning and upward at the end, becoming a curve (fig. 1.3).

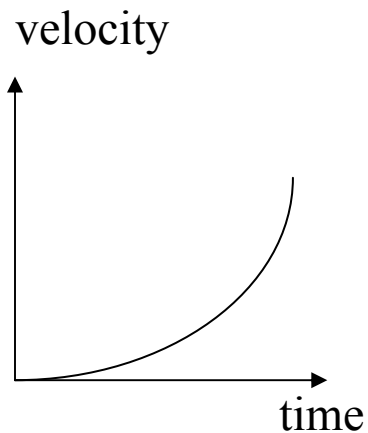


fig. 1.1

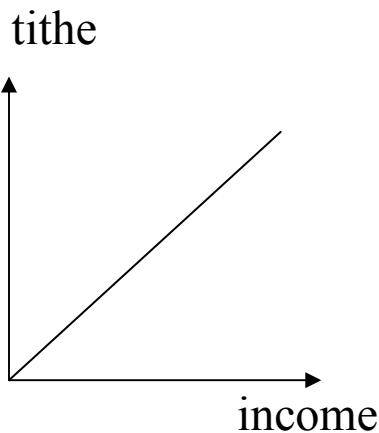


fig. 1.2

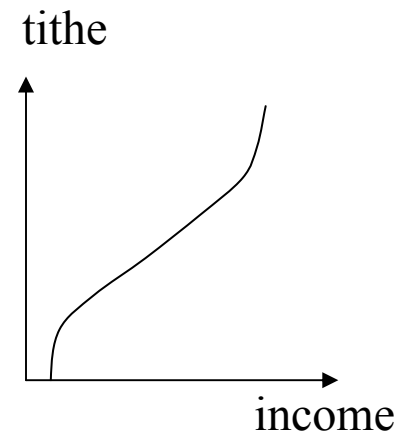
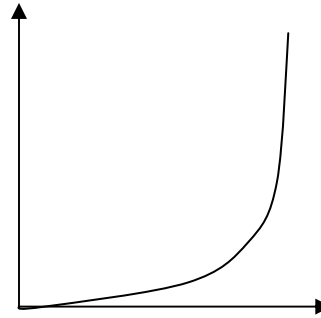


fig. 1.3

The Asymptote Tending Towards Eternity

Physics

In the asymptote, progress is relatively insignificant most of the time, but towards the end, not only does it shoot up, it soars towards infinity.



Theology

- That depicts seeming hopelessness due to prolonged turmoil among earthly beings that appears to dominate the history of the Church.
- Romans 8:22– The whole creation groans until now.
- But goodness will triumph over evil in the end and forever, as promised in the Bible.
- John 16:33– Jesus has overcome the world.

Varying Degrees of Temporal and Spatial Specificity

Physics

Physical phenomena are examined and given significance at varying degrees of temporal and spatial specificity.

Theology

- A larger view of God's plan is obtained when we adjust our lens of vision.
- Temporally, a thousand years is as one day in God's eyes (II Peter 3:8).
- Spatially, we see a straight line from a smaller viewpoint, but a curve from a larger one. (Refer to previous sections.)

Mystical Synchronization of Beauty and Goodness

Physics

- True physical theories turn out to be elegant.
- Simple finite principles representing a sophisticated endless network of reasoning is a characteristic of elegance.

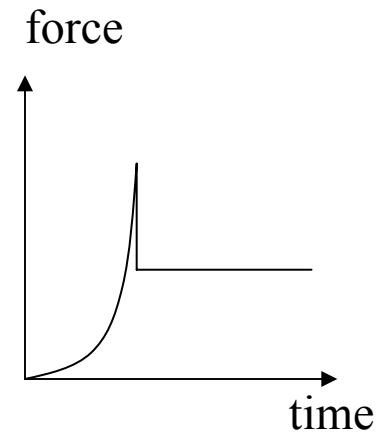
Theology

- God's goodness and beauty are simultaneously manifested in His creation.
- The Gospel can be understood by the simple in mind and elaborated by the most sophisticated thinkers.

Contrast Immediately Preceding the Onset of a New State

Physics

There is a peak in the force applied to overcome static friction right before the object moves.



Theology

- Jesus was totally defeated (Isaiah 53:7) and descended to the lowest (Matthew 12:40) before he ascended into heaven.
- Aesthetically, the contrast immediately preceding glorifies the new state.
- Logically, the full price of sin had to be paid to merit infinite goodness.