

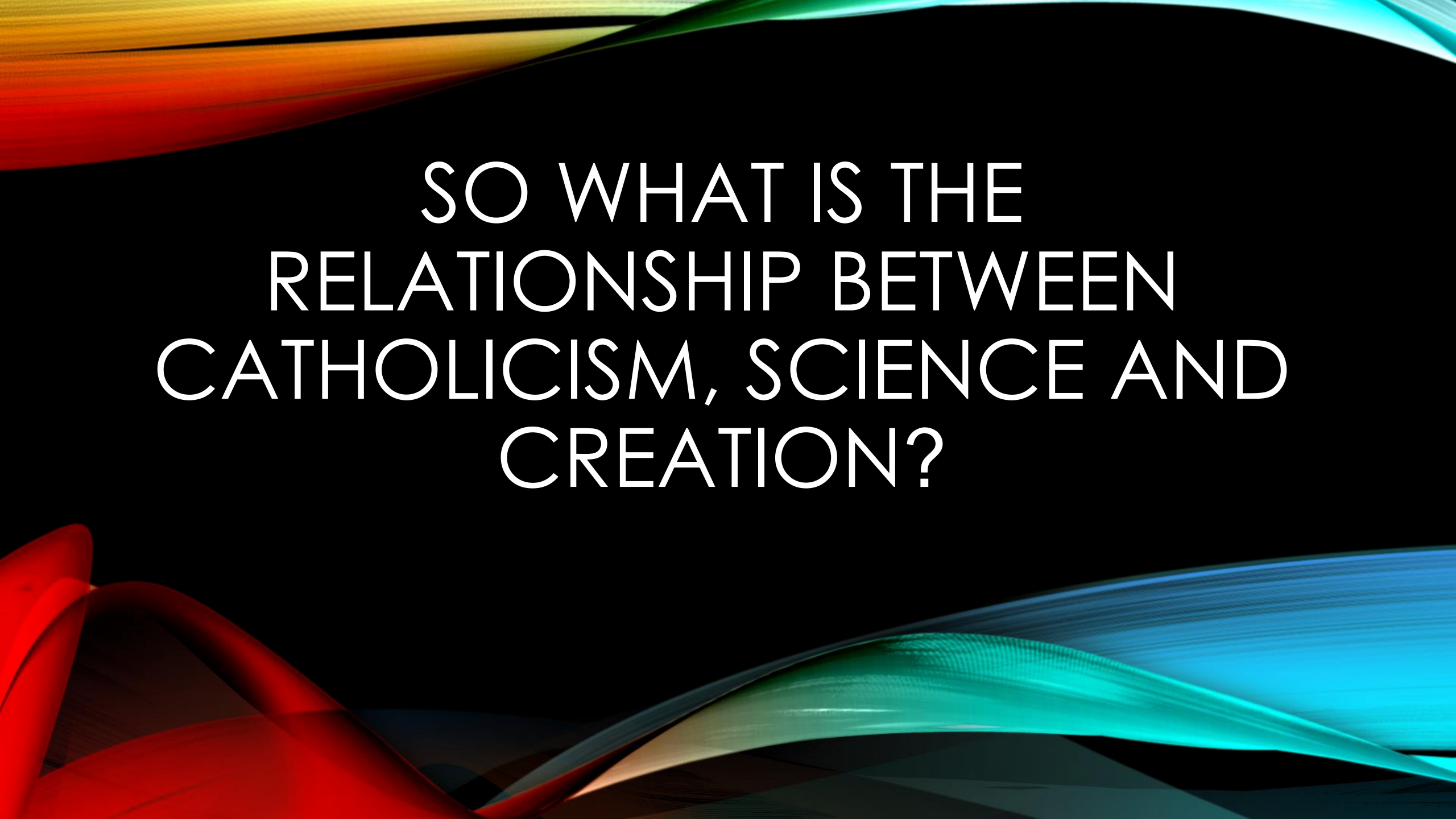


SOMETHING ELSE YOU
MIGHT COME ACROSS

I like to call it.....



BUT THE BIBLE
SAYS.....



SO WHAT IS THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
CATHOLICISM, SCIENCE AND
CREATION?

SOME FELLOW CHRISTIANS

- Believe a literal interpretation of scripture
- Date the earth as being only 6000 years old
 - Based on the ages of Biblical figures

THIS CREATES A MISUNDERSTANDING...

- That the Bible and science are in conflict
- For Catholics this simply is not true
 - And most other Christian denominations agree with us

OUR BELIEF...

- Yes, scriptural and scientific accounts differ...
 - Because theology and science have different objectives
- But they come from the same source...
 - The infinite mind and all loving heart of God

OUR SPIRITUAL LIBRARY

- Our Bible is not one book but a library of books with all types of literature
- We can discern different types of literature
 - Fiction, non-fiction, science-fiction
 - Biography, romance novel, Harry Potter, The Hunger Games
 - Aesop's fable about the tortoise and the hare...

PROBLEM RIGHT AWAY WITH SCRIPTURAL LITERALISM

- The sun isn't created until the 4th day
 - So how do you count days???
- Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 don't match
 - Why did they keep both stories???
- Remember it was an oral tradition first
 - Noah's ark has two different accounts too

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

- Both tell us sacred truths about our Creator
 - Genesis 1—Our God is All Powerful
 - Genesis 2—Our God is All Loving, and wants a close, special relationship with us
- Most important line in the Noah account
 - *And God remembered Noah (Genesis 8:1)*

CATHOLICISM AND CREATION

- The Bible is not a science or history book
 - Meaning of the event vs. the “facts”
- “**Who** and **Why**” of creation
 - Discovered through **Faith**
- “**How** and **When**” of creation
 - Discovered through **Science**

POPE PIUS XII

- In 1943 Pope Pius XII stated in an encyclical that the Bible does not present scientific truths...
- But sacred truths
- Truths about the relationship between creation and our Creator

BUT EVEN BEFORE THAT!!!

- Origen (184-253) and St. Augustine (354-430)
 - Both taught that Genesis was not to be taken literally as science or history
- They taught that the stories used imagery, symbols, and metaphors to make theological points
- Our Jewish brothers and sisters believe the same as we do

ORIGEN (184-253)

- Early Christian scholar and theologian
- Taught that scripture always has a spiritual sense, but it does not always have a literal sense.
- There are 3 interpretations of Scripture
 - Literal, moral, and spiritual

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

- 13th century
- “Whatever is received is received according to the manner of the receiver.”
- God used Biblical authors to produce a work that could be understood by people of that time

IN THE MODE OF THE RECEIVER

- Most scripture scholars agree that Genesis 1 was written around 500 BC
- That audience had no knowledge of DNA, carbon dating, or genetics
- No microscopes or telescopes
- Biblical authors never intended, nor could they have written a scientific account

IN THE MODE OF THE RECEIVER

- We know and use this truth taught by St. Thomas Aquinas when we don't teach 1st graders calculus!
- This is not an insult to 1st graders
- Or those who first wrote and heard the creation stories.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT TRUTH

- The Church and the Bible cannot be separated
- The Bible was written and formed by the community of faith
- The community of believers existed before the Bible was created
- This is true of both the Jewish and Christian traditions

THE CHURCH AND THE BIBLE CANNOT BE SEPARATED

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that the “Sacred Deposit of Faith”, (Sacred Scripture and Holy Tradition) is guarded by the Magisterium or teaching authority of the Church (CCC #80-86)

CATECHISM ON FAITH AND SCIENCE

- *The things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God. The humble and persevering investigator of the secrets of nature is being led, as it were, by the hand of God,... for it is God, the conserver of all things, who made them what they are. (CCC #159)*

THE THREE PILLARS

- Sacred Tradition
- Sacred Scripture
- The Magisterium

OUR SACRED TRADITION

- From the teaching of the Apostles
- Our theologians add to the discussion
- Grows and develops over time
 - Like the Mississippi
 - Headwaters in Minnesota vs. the Gulf
- A real idea is equal to the sum of its total aspects
 - Like describing the Emerald Towers downtown
- But....

DEVELOPMENT VS. CORRUPTION

- Pope John 23 “We are not here to guard a museum, but cultivate a flourishing garden of life.”
- But what is a flower and what is a weed?
- We need a living voice of authority
 - Like an “umpire”

DOCTRINE ON THE TRINITY

- Present from the beginning (Headwaters)
- In Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture
 - Read Gospels and Letters of Paul
 - Intriguing reference in Genesis 1:26
 - *Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness.*
 - *Theologians and saints add to the discussion*

UPROOTING “WEEDS”

- Councils of Nicea (325) and Constantinople (381)
 - Countering and correcting false teaching about Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- From Apostles' Creed to Nicene Creed
 - *God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made.*

BIBLICAL AUTHORS' PURPOSE IN GENESIS??

- To correct other creation stories from other cultures such as the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Egyptians
- These cultures had many gods and goddesses including a moon god, sun god, and ocean god.
 - Humans were just playthings or slaves of these gods and goddesses



OUR BIBLICAL TRUTH

- One God created everything and everything was good, especially human beings
- These are the truths important for our salvation

NONE OF THIS CONTRADICTS SCIENCE

- The Bible tells us...
 - God created and ordered the world according to His intelligent plan
- Our scientists are telling us...
 - More and more about the wonders of that intelligent plan

FR. LEMAITRE SAID IN 1923...



- The universe exploded into being 13.8 billion years ago
- Pope Pius XII honored him and had him serve on a team of scientists for 16 years
 - Validation by Magisterium
- He was nominated for the Nobel prize in 1954 and 1956

OTHER FAMOUS CATHOLIC SCIENTISTS

- Blessed Bishop Nicolas Steno—One of the founders of modern geology
- Nicolas Copernicus—father of modern astronomy
- Louis Pasteur—founder of microbiology
- Fr. Gregor Mendel—father of modern genetics
- Sr. Miriam Michael Stimson—DNA Pioneer
- Fr. Angelo Secchi—Pioneer of Astrophysics

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- God created everything according to an intelligent plan
- Science is telling us more and more about the wonders of that plan

WORDS OF GALILEO

- The Bible shows us the way to go to heaven
- Not the way the heavens go