

# **FROM PEAKS OF SILVER TO STREETS OF GOLD (With a Stop at Geocentricity Along the Way):**

## **THE SPIRITUAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONVERSION OF RONALD NELSON<sup>1</sup>**

I was born into a moral, religious family in 1941. My parents were not fervent churchgoers, but they saw to it that my sister, my two brothers and I were active in our Lutheran Sunday School and Church.

Although I spent the first 31 years of my life as an unsaved person, those years under Lutheran teaching were instrumental in planting Biblical seeds into my unregenerate heart. I spent these first 31 years of my life in pursuit of the temporal pleasures of this life, but giving little thought to eternity. All of my formal education was spent in secular classrooms where I eagerly received all the humanistic science which was presented to me. Upon graduation from high school I attended Ohio University where I was further indoctrinated in humanistic science. Since my college major was geology, I was thoroughly saturated with evolutionary theory.

After graduating from college, I took a position as field geologist for a mining company in Nevada. Since churches (Lutheran or otherwise) were quite scarce in the area of Nevada where I lived I became a stranger to church attendance for several years. At that time one of my closest friends became a Christian and began to witness to me concerning his faith in Christ. Since my friend was a self-professed atheist prior to his salvation, I became genuinely interested in the changes I saw in his life.

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<sup>1</sup> Ron Nelson has taught science at Cleveland Baptist Temple's Heritage Christian School as well as its Bible institute for 31 years. He writes: "I have entitled my testimony, 'From Peaks of Silver...' because it was in Silver Peak, Nevada that the Lord Jesus Christ saved me by His grace, and '...to Streets of Gold...' because it is the gold street of the heavenly city that His grace will carry me, and '...With a Stop at Geocentricity Along the Way' because it was at the geocentric/heliocentric crossroad that my faith in humanistic science began rapidly to fall away. I have now taught the geocentric concept for over 29 years in junior high, senior high, and Bible institute settings. I have continued to face opposition from my Christian brethren and even some from my teaching colleagues. I do not condemn them, but I do pray for them that God will lead them into the way of truth as He has graciously done for me over these many years. It is such a privilege to walk with Him and to serve Him. Praise God for this marvelous Book...the Authorized Version of the Bible...that He has so graciously preserved for us. May we be faithful to dedicate ourselves to its wonderful and unchanging truth.

At the time I considered myself to be a “Christian” because I did not smoke, drink, cuss, gamble, and tried to be morally good, but when I saw the tremendous change in my friend’s life, I eventually came to earnestly desire to have what he had. One night in January 1974, I knelt in my trailer home in Silver Peak, Nevada, and “dared” Christ to change my life as He had done for my friend. I thought that there would be “lightning and thunder,” but when that did not occur, I thought I had done something wrong and so tried again. Little did I realize that a genuine internal change had already taken place in my life.

Prior to that time the most important things in my life were antique guns and the money required to purchase them. Little by little I began to realize that reading the Bible had become more important than the guns, and as time went on, the guns fell by the wayside as the Bible became the most important thing in my life.

As I studied the Bible, I quickly became aware of a serious conflict between my humanistic science education and the book of Genesis. If the creation account of Genesis was true, then all of my humanistic, evolutionary science was a lie. I struggled with this conflict for several months and eventually the Holy Spirit began to renew and cleanse my mind and heart with the truths of Scripture. I became acutely aware that I must believe *all* the Bible or believe none of it. Graciously, the Great God helped me to firmly embrace the former and through His grace I have been kept on this path for the past 34 years.

In 1975-1976 the Lord began dealing with me concerning fulltime service and particularly a teaching ministry. Since I am by nature a shy and introverted person, I fought the Lord for several months until finally I could fight with Him no more. I told Him that I could not do it alone and that if it were to get done He would have to do it through me. The year 1977 was a monumental year for me for it was in that year that I met and married my wife and responded to God’s call to come to Heritage Christian School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Sad to say the first year of my teaching was still filled with humanistic concepts so I enrolled in Westside Baptist Bible Institute at Brookside Baptist Church in Seven Hills. The teacher was James Hanson and it was not long into the class that Mr. Hanson challenged me to try and support my Copernican thinking with Scripture. Certain that I could so this I began to conduct a diligent search of the Bible to find evidence for a moving earth. To my chagrin, I could find no such evidence and soon became open to the idea that geocentricity had true Biblical merit. I continued to search the Scriptures and soon became firmly convinced that if I were to believe in a literal Bible, I must cast in my lot on the side of a geocentric universe. With some trepidation I

began to teach the geocentric concept in my science classes. I met some opposition, but when I presented my Biblical evidence most of the opposition ceased. I have leaned over the years that many people “believe” the Bible as long as it does not interfere with their prejudices, but that a *true* Bible believer is willing to cast aside his unbiblical prejudices when he comes face-to-face with literal Biblical truth. I praise God that His grace has allowed me to be a part of this latter group.

As a result of my Scriptural search I found one of the most compelling evidences in support of the geocentric concept in the form of the symbolism associated with the sun. The sun is clearly a type of Christ and the literal motion of the sun is an absolute necessity in order to properly portray the going down of Christ into the tomb, the arising of Christ out of the tomb, the descent of Christ from heaven and the ascent of Christ back into heaven. (Interestingly, Christ went down into the tomb at the going down of the sun and arose from the tomb at the time of the rising of the sun.) In the volume entitled, *Preaching From the Types and Metaphors of the Bible*, Benjamin Keach lists no fewer than fifty ways in which the sun represents Christ and many of them require a literal motion of the sun. Two portions of Scripture which bear heavily on this symbolic concept are Psalm 19:4-6 and Matthew 5:45. In Psalm 19 the sun is compared with a bridegroom and a strong man in the matter of their respective motions. Christ is clearly the coming bridegroom and is, indeed, the strong man running to complete His spiritual race. In Matthew five, as the Father raised up His Son Jesus from the dead, even so the Father makes His sun to rise for the physical good of mankind.

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## BULLETIN BLOOPERS

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off—let the church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.