

# 3

## The Dark Age of Science

- 3.1 The History of Science
- 3.2 The Dark Age of Science
- 3.3 Modern Science Today
- 3.4 Modern Science and Truth
- 3.5 The Big Picture of Modern Science
- 3.6 How Popular is Modern Science?
- 3.7 Science, Technology and Mathematics
- 3.8 A Final Review of Modern Science

In this chapter, we shine as it were, a light in darkness as we illuminate science in a new way. We discuss briefly, the history of science and the individuals who influenced it. We examine the controversial Dark Age of Science; many readers may be surprised to discover what has become of today's modern science.

The Big Picture of Modern Science describes the foundation of science in our day. We learn how that view contributed to the reign of a Dark Age of Science during which an enigmatic comingling of science and technology occurred, blurring the line between them and obscuring their critical differences. The relationship between math and science and the real agenda behind modern science comes keenly in view as we reveal its future.

### 3.1 The History of Science

#### Science Defined

During the early 1800s, the term 'scientist' did not yet exist. Men of letters who studied the natural world were, known as philosophers until Cambridge historian and philosopher, William Whewell changed that in 1840:

“We need very much a name to describe a cultivator of science in general. I should incline to call him a **scientist**.” Bib 14 p29

Though 'scientists' did not earn their new moniker until the 1800s, science's beginnings reach back at least to the 1400s, when men like Copernicus and Galileo expressed their views about Nature. Today, 'scientist' is a common household word generally applied to anyone who works in or is associated with any field of science.

The word science comes from the Latin word *sciens*, which means 'knowing.' In the 1960s edition of *Webster's Unified*



*Dictionary and Encyclopedia*, an American dictionary that has been around since the 1800s and generally held in high regard, defines **science** using words such as truth, fact, and law. Note how these words denote absoluteness and an air of authority:

“A branch of study which is concerned either with a connected body of **demonstrated truths** or with **observed facts** systematically classified by being brought under **general laws**, and which include trustworthy methods for the **discovery of new truths** within its own domain.” Bib 98 p3783

Compare this old definition with *Webster's 1997 Universal College Dictionary* definition of **science** and we see little change:

“1. A branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of **facts or truths** systematically arranged and showing the operation of **general laws**. 2. Systematic knowledge of the physical or material world gained through observation and experimentation.” Bib 7 p703

However, a look at the *McGraw-Hill Concise Encyclopedia of Science & Technology* from 1998 reveals a clear *lack of absoluteness* in the words they used to define **science**:

“In common usage the word science is applied to a variety of disciplines or intellectual activities which have certain features in common. **Usually** a science is characterized by the **possibility** of making precise statements which are susceptible of some **sort of check or proof**. This **often** implies that the situation with which the special science is concerned can be made to recur in order to submit themselves to check, **although this is by no means always the case**.” Bib 12 p1719

We read a very unique definition of science, substantially different from Webster's earlier definitions as they eliminated the use of the words truth, fact, and law. These words are also