

## Hilbert's Dilemma Or "The Insufficiency of Science"

*I applied my mind to seek and explore through wisdom all that is done under heaven. God has given people this miserable task to keep them occupied. I have seen all the things that are done under the sun and have found everything to be futile, a pursuit of the wind. What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. I said to myself, "Look, I have amassed wisdom far beyond all those who were over Jerusalem before me, and my mind has thoroughly grasped wisdom and knowledge." I applied my mind to know wisdom and knowledge, madness and folly; I learned that this too is a pursuit of the wind. For with much wisdom is much sorrow; as knowledge increases, grief increases. - Ecclesiastes 1:13-18 HCSB*

I am an Adonaist. Adonaists believe Adonai should be the King of their lives and are trusting His Messiah for their salvation. Adonaists believe firmly in education. We encourage our youth to go into the sciences, believing that in careful observation of the universe, God and His principles may be found.

- Psalms 19:1-4 HCSB For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. 2 Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. 3 There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. 4 Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.
- Romans 1:18-21 HCSB For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, 19 since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. 20 From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. 21 For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened.
- Romans 1:25 HCSB They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- Romans 1:28 HCSB And because they did not think it worthwhile to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong.
- Romans 1:32 HCSB Although they know full well God's just sentence--that those who practice such things deserve to die--they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.
- Romans 2:14-15 HCSB So, when Gentiles, who do not have the (*specialy revealed*) law, instinctively do what the (*specialy revealed*) law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the (*specialy revealed*) law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences testify in support of this, and their competing thoughts either accuse or excuse them

Turn, if you will, to the Tanakh, the Old Covenant to

- Ecclesiastes 9:10 HCSB Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

Now look in the Brit Hadashah, the New Covenant at

- Colossians 3:23 HCSB Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men,

Not only should Adonaists want to be on the very bleeding edge of science and the arts, we should be doing everything to the best of our ability for the glory of our God.

However, we humbly recognize the limitations of the human mind.

- Isaiah 55:8-9 HCSB "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways." This is the LORD's declaration. 9 "For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.
- Romans 1:22 HCSB Claiming to be wise, they became fools

For example, there once was a man by the name of David Hilbert



who dreamed fantastic mathematical dreams. He dreamed of creating a set of axioms that would be completely consistent and totally able to cover all truths that could flow from this set. His vision inspired scores of young mathematicians to boldly advance into the arcane fields of math, seeking to subdue their recalcitrant prey.



Unfortunately for Mr. Hilbert, a young Austrian named Kurt Gödel came along and knocked down Mr. Hilbert's mathematical house of cards. Gödel proved in 1931 that there would always be some questions that cannot be answered by axioms. His work came to be known as Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem.

Math's ability to determine ultimate truth is thus limited.

Heisenberg's Uncertainty principle (more formally defined as the "ontological status of unobservable entities in science") dictates the same type of limitations in physics.



Today, great stock is rightfully placed in science and math. Scientists have used the work of mathematicians to produce wonderful things. However, we need to keep in mind that scientists and mathematicians are human too. Listening to some of them talk or reading their papers makes it difficult to believe at times but there it is. They have belief systems that influence how they design their tests. Their metaphysical outlooks influence how they interpret the data.

Beyond that considerable problem lies the one that states that there are inherent limits in what they can prove. Perhaps this is why the wisest among us finally concluded that it is impossible to discover everything under that sun no matter how hard we try and even if a wise man claims to know it, he is actually unable to discover it.

- Ecclesiastes 8:16-17 HCSB When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the activity that is done on the earth (even though one's eyes do not close in sleep day or night), 17 I observed all the work of God and concluded that man is unable to discover the work that is done under the sun. Even though a man labors hard to explore it, he cannot find it; even if the wise man claims to know it, he is unable to discover it.