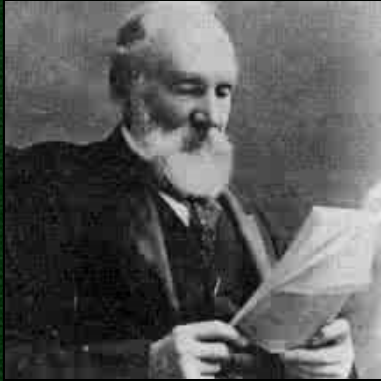


LORD KELVIN



William Thompson, Lord Kelvin, (1824-1907) was a physical scientist of the same stature as Newton and Faraday before him, and all three were Bible-believing Christians. He was an infant and teenage prodigy and then held the chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Glasgow for fifty-four years.

The number of his contributions in physics and mathematics, as well as practical inventions, was enormous. He established the scale of absolute temperatures, so that such temperatures are today given as so many "degrees Kelvin."

He established thermodynamics as a formal scientific discipline and formulated its first and second laws in precise terminology. He was the first scientist to adopt and use the concept of "energy."

Lord Kelvin was a strong Christian, opposing both Lyelhan uniformitarianism and Darwinian evolution. Thomson calculated the age of the earth from its cooling rate and concluded that it was too short to fit with Lyell's theory of gradual geological change or Charles Darwin's theory of the evolution of animals through natural selection. This led to an extended controversy with Thomas Huxley, "Darwin 's Bulldog."

Modern evolutionists like to ridicule this calculation which was based on terrestrial heat flow and the cooling of the earth by noting that Kelvin did not know about heat from radioactivity. However, when radioactivity was discovered, Kelvin did consider it and showed it would not be at all adequate to meet the need for an earth old enough to allow evolution.

Lord Kelvin also made studies which later enabled Morse to invent the telegraph. He supervised the design and laying of the first Atlantic cable, which on top of all his other contributions led to his being knighted and later given a barony. He held twenty-one honorary doctorates.

Yet with all these honors, he always remained a humble Christian, firmly believing the Bible and supporting its teaching in the schools of England . In a famous testimony given in 1903, Lord Kelvin made the unequivocal statement that, "With regard to the origin of life, science... positively affirms creative power."

"Men of Science-Men of God" by Dr. Henry M. Morris