



Modeling the Abstract

Scott Huckaby's Toastmaster CTM #4
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Show What You Mean... Objectives:

- To learn the value of gestures and body movements as part of a speech
- To explore the different ways of using body movements
- To develop a sense of timing and natural and smooth body movement
- Time: five to seven minutes

Have you ever thought about how you might describe color to someone who was born blind? Color is a pretty abstract concept to someone who has not seen it before.

Everyone here works in some sort of technical field so you should be fairly adept at dealing with the abstract. For example, design engineers use models as tools to predict the behavior of complex devices. Models help us understand that which we can not see...

In the few minutes I have before you today, I'm going to describe a model that should help us better understand an important abstract concept: life after death. Most people consider death to be a painful subject but this is because they have limited their perspective to this time-space continuum.

We live in a world with four dimensions that may be measured, three of these dimensions are spatial: height, breadth, and depth. The fourth dimension is time which is being measured by our timer right now. Consider for a moment a hypothetical world that does not have one of these dimensions...

Some of you may recall Pac-man, the first arcade-style video game to become popular. Pac-man

lived in a 2-D world, his entire existence was on a plane. Pac-man lived to gobble up dots and avoid certain hazards in a maze. If Pac-man was an intelligent being, how could you describe to him the 3-D spatial world we live in?

The obvious way to give Pac-man a sense of our world is to use one of the 3-D video games we now have. Pac-man could identify with these games because they are really 2-D models of a 3-D world that would give him a sense of depth that he can not experience in his own world.

It occurred to me that this is essentially what God did when He came into our world as Jesus of Nazareth. God Himself became a model for us taking on a human body so that we may identify with Him. God also gave us the Bible so that we may be able to verify for ourselves that Jesus was who He claimed to be.

The Bible describes a spiritual realm that I take to be at least one dimension beyond the four dimensions we occupy. This spiritual realm is an abstract concept to us but this does not mean it is any less real.

God created all the dimensions of the world we live in but He is not limited to them as we are. Since God is outside the confines of time, He is able to declare the end from the beginning. Consequently, the Bible has prophecies that are 100% accurate, many of which have been fulfilled in history. I'm not talking about vague predictions subject to interpretation, I'm talking about history written in advance that may be clearly understood without needing a doctorate in theology.

In fact prophecies that have come to pass have been fulfilled so literally that scoffers have tried to argue that certain books of the Bible had to be written after the prophesied events took place.

For example, the prophet Isaiah calling Cyrus by name, foretold that he as the king of Persia would command Jerusalem to be restored 100 years before Cyrus was even born!

The prophet Daniel described in advance the major world governments that would exist between the Babylonians and the coming of Jesus. Jesus fulfilled a lot of prophecies such as where He would be born, His virgin birth, His genealogy, the kinds of miracles He would perform, how He would die, and the amazing fact that He would rise from the dead.

As you'd expect, the Bible has a lot to say about the future as well. Scripture describes some pretty incredible future events related to the return of Jesus.

My own realization that certain current events were setting the stage for the future events described in the Bible led to my believing that Jesus is who He claimed to be, the Creator Himself who made it possible for us to know Him. This realization gave purpose to my life, the same purpose we should all have: to prepare for eternity.

The Bible tells us that death is not the end of our existence. Death is merely the end of our four-dimensional physical bodies. All people have a soul that will have no end. Your consciousness will continue into eternity.

The issue is not if there is life after death, rather it is where we will be after death. Those who accept the Creator as He has revealed Himself to us will spend eternity in His presence. Those who reject Him will be separated from Him and His creation forever. Life in this world is a test. It is as simple as that.

The Bible says that God created us in His image. To me, the most profound aspect of being created in the image of God is that we have been given a free will to make choices. As God Himself has a will, He gave each of us a will to freely accept or reject Him. God created us this way so that we may have a true personal relationship with Him. After all, what kind of a relationship can you really have with a robot that is programmed to do just what you tell it to do?

To have a relationship with God means that we get to know Him. Since God is in the extra-dimensional spiritual realm, knowing Him outside the model He has given us is beyond our four-dimension-bound minds to grasp.

I have probably described a few things that sound pretty incredible to some of you. I'd encourage you to check them out for yourself. Don't just accept what other people tell you about God, including myself. God wants each of us to have a personal relationship with Him, that is why He gave us the Bible.

As we would not commit to silicon a design that modeling shows to have a serious flaw, neither should any one risk leaving this world to enter spiritual dimensions with the flaw of not having properly prepared for eternity. A good way to regard the Bible is to consider the term "Bible" to be an acronym standing for: "basic-instructions-before-leaving-earth."