The Religion in Science: how Biblical stories have contributed to the construction of scientific knowledge

**Abstract (100–120 words)**

Stories captivate us by speaking to our imagination and by giving order and meaning to the seemingly chaotic nature of our world. Stories do not just give us knowledge about society, being even able to shape the knowledge we construct about nature. In the Western world, Christianity has provided narratives that have been used as references in scientific research for centuries. In this article I discuss two such examples, the Creation story and the story of Noah and the Great Flood, and show how they were prevalent in science conducted in the West. In fact, these only lost their power when new scientific theories and concepts were linked to alternative stories capable of given coherent meaning to new discoveries.

**Keywords (5/5 words)**

Bible; Creation; Noah’s Flood; fossils; Darwin’s theory of evolution

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Daniel Gamito-Marques is a historian of science at the Interuniversity for the History of Science and Technology, based in Lisbon, Portugal. His main academic interests are science and imperialism (19th-20th centuries), and the history of natural history (18th-19th centuries). He is also a published playwright interested in the power of storytelling to discuss complex scientific subjects in education, literature, and the performing arts.