I wish to open this treatise on the Immaculate Conception & other Biblical events, by putting forward my position on the *experiential validation* of the Bible.

New age Atheists insist science is evidentially validated, the Bible is NOT!

To which I can only respond what is the basis for evidential validation of subjective matters? Surely the law of evidential validation which applies to the one, should in some way apply to the other?

The law of gravity for instance is held evidentially validated despite not visibly existing. Yet gravity is evidentially validated from the visible effects & influences it has on those material bodies whose physical existence we can evidentially validate. Thus *the invisible force* we call gravity, is evidentially validated due to its effects on the observable bodies within the domain of the **material sciences**.

Likewise the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit, to which I also add the Immaculate Conception & the Atonement of Christ; do not seem to have any verifiable physical or material existence. Yet they are evidentially validated on account of the visible effects & influences each variously exerts over individuals & the society generally. Thus, *these essentially* ***spiritual forces*** *or influences on both individual & collective human behaviors;* are evidentially validated on account of their *secondary level* measurable effects & influences, on how we live & interact with the physical & material world.

Here we face the reality the social sciences, be they theology, philosophy, sociology or psychology; cannot be evidentially validated as you cannot evidentially validate a **~subjective~** not least as there are no material evidences to validate. These social sciences can only be experientially validated.

This means Biblical fundamentalists cannot uphold the Bible while rejecting science; nor can Atheists & purely secular citizens uphold science while rejecting the Bible. Some standard of evidential validation must apply to each; yet in the sciences evidential validation is direct. In the social sciences evidential validation is a secondary; in the form of verifiable evidences attesting these subjective understanding’s, substantially determine how we materially & physically live.

It should be self-evident that before you can experientially validate anything; you must have depth of **life experience** to validate from. Thus the Apostles creed commences ~I believe~ not least as the experiential validation of elders & the preserved wisdom of previous generations, is being passed on as a matter of **belief & trust** to new generations; who do not yet have enough life experience of their own to do their own in-depth experiential validations.

We cannot evidentially validate the different theologies of the basically Christian west & Islam for instance. Yet we can evidentially validate one as true & the other false; due to the hugely different societies each belief system gives rise to. Christ said *~by their fruits shall you know them~*

Having made my position on evidential validation & experiential validation clear; I now move to engage Biblical matters & the Immaculate Conception specifically...………………………….

by fast forwarding to the modern world…

Today many hold the Immaculate Conception as just a fairy-tale.

My own position is different…

To me the Immaculate Conception is the most amazing piece of work. For thousands of years philosophers & theologians have struggled with how to bring forth a remedy to the sinful nature of man. Most finished up throwing it in the **too hard** basket, as the condition seemed irresolvable.

The Old Testament Prophets put a lot of dedicated work into trying to bring sin under management; but only succeeded in various misdiagnoses of the condition which led to various miss-prescriptions being advanced as remedies. Not surprisingly these efforts did not exactly succeed.

Then along came the Immaculate Conception which resolved the matter with **elegant simplicity** while being highly effective. As a design engineer in religions myself **I salute** those who have come before me; to design that one they were better than me at my own craft.

I am good at what I do; so too were the Prophets & Apostles before me. I am confident if I started from the small understandings of 5,000 years ago; then lived a thousand years. By process of constant application plus trail & error; by the time I died I would have worked through all the other options to experientially validate the Biblical Trinity as best-practice in the God-business, and then seek to enshrine it for all of time.

By the same process I would expect to experientially validate the Bibles correct diagnoses on the nature of Sin; then experientially validate the Atonement of Christ as the correct remedial prescription.

Yet the Immaculate Conception **came out of no-where** *Luke 1:31 the angel said to her; do not be afraid Mary for you have found favor with God. You will conceive in your womb & bear a Son. … name him Jesus… the son of the Most High… God will give him a throne~*

All the other major events in the Bible had pre-cursors in the Old Testament; which were clearly leading & developing over time & experience to the final conclusions reached in the New Testament.

Yet the Immaculate Conception has no OT precursors known to me; so where did it come from? *It even has this design engineer looking over his shoulder, as there may be actual angels out there somewhere. This requires me to believe there may be actual demons living in the bowels of the earth as well; so I decline to go there.*

The Bible holds the Immaculate Conception came from the ~pure of heart~ This suggests the great boozy womanizing masses do have some merit in God; that puts smart guys like me in my place.

In the finish the Immaculate Conception is experientially validated as the only way of bringing forth a Savior who can redeem or best manage our sins. **No evidential validation is required;** thus the Apostles Creed commences… *~I believe…. this creed to be experientially validated~*

In closing I wish to address a matter raised by others.

On page 179 of his book ~post-God nation~ Roy Williams was appalled by Michael Cathcart offering his opinion ~there is no doubt Muhammad was a real person; whereas Jesus is a person at least *ambiguous* in the question of whether he existed or not~ To which Williams responded ~there is not a qualified historian who doubts Jesus existed as a real person who lived in first century Palestine~

To address these matters one at a time; there is no doubt Hitler, Stalin & Genghis Khan were real persons in history, yet the fact of their proven existence does not make them any **net asset** to humanity. I would say the same with regard to the very dubious self-serving Muhammad.

On the matter of the Jesus of history; there is no doubt about the existence, be it somewhat metaphysical, of Christ in history. Yet *the essence* of Christ *~permeates~* the whole of history, he is not a one-off time-bound event. Pre-Incarnation he existed as deep void of emptiness which humanity hungered to fill; as it needed guidance on how ordinary folks might live rightly in God.

Post-Incarnation he lived as fulfilment, peace & contentment; the empty void of unsatisfied hungry yearning was filled; ordinary folks now had their example of how to live rightly in God.

Thus the Incarnation could well be an act of the collective consciousness, seeking to resolve a deep ongoing human concern. In my view it need not be a literal physical event.

Christ has lived ~in & through~ humans for all of history; & was made manifest in a coherent form by the collective consciousness in first century Palestine. Of note, is the representative & the actual became in-separately one by reason of the visible effects & experiential influences of the physically invisible; thus said manifestation was both metaphysical & *in some way* physically actual.

The Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit are held to have jointly & severally existed *from the beginnings*. As humans have an instinctive desire for law & governance; an instinctive desire for a system of humanities, plus an instinctive drive toward progress & development; it seems safe to assume all three existed in primitive form in earliest man. *They may exist in* ***embryonic form*** *through the whole life chain right back to the original amoeba.* Yet this does not require they exist in substantive physical form, more likely as *invisible hand influences* experienced through us; then evidentially validated by the visible influences they exert on the day to day physical & material activities of humans.

*Such is the domain of* ***the spiritual;*** *it is experiential in itself, not evidential; yet is evidentially validated by the physical & material effects these invisible hands exert on our worldly lives.*

*…..Blessed be the names of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit…..****reign forever****…..amen….*