

Think & Believe

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The Heavens Declare God's Glory

by *Mary Jo Nutting*

Have you ever been struck with awe and wonder on a clear, starlit night? There is something special about the stars that lifts our eyes heavenward and our thoughts beyond everyday cares. Somehow, in a very real way, God reveals His Glory in the heavens.

In our modern world of cities, smog, and electric lights, we can often go for weeks without gazing at the stars; but I suspect it wasn't that way in times past. For settlers scattered on the plains of the American west, sailors on the far reaches of the sea, or shepherds on the hills of Judea, the stars were constant companions and a continual source of comfort, wonder, and awe. Unfortunately, as the hearts of men turned from God, they began to worship the stars rather than their Creator. Yet, God says, the heavens declare His Glory (Ps 19:1)!

The word translated "glory" in this passage comes from a Hebrew word meaning heavy or weighty. It carries with it the sense of numerous, richness, splendor, or honor. Certainly the sheer magnitude of stars in the heavens boggles the imagination. Billions of galaxies each contain billions of individual stars. If even the relatively small number of stars visible to the naked eye caused the psalmist to marvel, how much more should we as modern technology reveals

the vastness of the universe! The psalmist seems to be seeing more than just numbers of stars. He says, the heavens declare the glory of God. Yes, there is glory in the heavens — Scripture says that stars differ in glory — but David speaks of the glory of God.

So how do the heavens declare the glory of God? Here are just a few things I thought as I meditated on these words. The magnitude of stars reminds me of the numerous facets of God's character — His wonderful goodness, abundant kindness, and infinite care for variety and details. The sky full of sparkling jewels reveals His extravagance, His showering of blessings on His beloved children, and the unfathomable richness of His grace. The regularity of the movements of stars in the heavens reveals His wonderful faithfulness and unchanging character. The vastness of the heavens reveals His power and creativity.

Yet despite seeing this glory, Moses wanted to know God in a much deeper way. He begged God, "Show me Thy

glory" (Ex 33:18). In reply, God hid him in the cleft of the rock and caused His goodness to pass before him and proclaimed the name of the Lord — "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Moses was allowed to see only God's back, not His face. What did he see? Was it the stripes He took on our behalf? Was it a vision of the time when, centuries later, God would reveal so much more in the person of His Son? John 1:14 says, "We beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The glory of God — declared by the heavens, but beheld in the Son; Jesus Christ, the glory of God — full of grace and truth; Jesus Christ — the riches of God, the manifold wisdom of God, the fullness of deity in human flesh. What a treasure!

Now we can know the glory of God, not just declared by the heavens, as wonderful as they are, but revealed in the face of Christ Jesus (II Cor 4:6).

May we respond as Moses and worship our great Creator, Redeemer, and Lord. T&B



Wonders of Creation Astronomy Book

by Andrea Korow



This Biblically based book by Dr. Jonathan Henry is a great introduction to the universe that will capture the attention of any budding astronomer. Every page has color pictures with text to beautifully illustrate your journey through the universe.

Henry uses a logical progression starting with what is astronomy and the overwhelming immensity of the universe. Before the galactic tour begins, he has two very interesting chapters: "Why did God Create the Heavenly Bodies?" and

"Space Exploration."

Throughout the book, God is honored as the Great Creator of the Universe and all the wonders it contains. Many scriptures are quoted with explanations. For example, the effects of sin touched every portion of the universe. Henry goes on to explore the rest of our solar system.

One of my favorite parts is about the sun. Life on earth would be totally impossible if our sun were a variable star. Unlike other stars, our sun varies only a few tenths of one percent. Thank God for our constant sun!

The facts about age and origin of the moon were equally amazing. As a

9-year-old on July 20, 1969, I followed the moon landing with a passion and knew nearly every crater's name. My young mind wondered, "When will astronauts visit the sun?" This humorous example shows that even younger children will read and re-read this book.

Henry concludes with: "Catastrophes in the Solar System." He even touches on: "Did an Asteroid Kill the Dinosaurs?"

[©1999, 80 pages, \$15.95]

To order, see the enclosed flier, visit www.discovercreation.org, or call (970)523-9943. T&B

Our Place Among the Stars



THE UNIVERSE...

- stretches across 30 billion light years (One light year = 6 trillion miles).
- contains 10^{22} (10 billion trillion) stars, filling 100 billion galaxies. Every star appears unique in size, temperature, color, brightness, and elemental composition. The Milky Way, our galaxy, contains 100 billion stars.



THE SUN...

- can contain 1 million earth-size planets.
- contradicts Big Bang predictions. It has approximately 99% of the total mass of the solar system, but only 1% of the angular momentum.
- leaves atheists scratching their heads. It is composed of 98% hydrogen and helium but these elements make up less than 1% of the sun's closest planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.
- is shrinking. Even the most conservative rates shoot down evolutionary time scales.



THE PLANETS...

- vary in size, temperature range, orbital velocities and atmospheric conditions. Volcanoes, canyons, gaseous rings, and moons make each planet unique.
- should all rotate in the same direction if they developed from a spinning gas cloud. However, Venus and Uranus spin backward.
- should have moons orbiting the same direction if the Big Bang is true, but several moons circle in reverse. Even more wondrous, the moons of Neptune, Saturn, and Jupiter course in both directions!



THE MOON...

- causes tides which oxygenate the oceans.
- is just the right distance from the earth — if too close, tides would wash across the continents twice a day; if too far, the oceans would stagnate.



THE EARTH...

- is strategically placed 93 million miles from the sun. If it was closer, ocean water would boil! If it was farther, the oceans would freeze!
- encircles the sun at 66,000 mph.
- transports a person living 70 years, 40 billion miles through space.

The Apparent Age of the Stars and a Young Earth

by Dennis Haimert

The Bible indicates the universe is young but why does it appear so old? Physicist, Dr. Russell Humphreys studied this problem for about 12 years. His professional career as a scientist at Sandia Laboratories includes investigating various aspects of nuclear energy which requires a thorough understanding of relativity theory. His answer

to the problem is based upon Einstein's prediction that clocks run at different rates. The rate that a clock records time has been shown experimentally to depend upon how fast the clock is traveling and the strength of the gravitational field near the clock. This is referred to as time dilation.

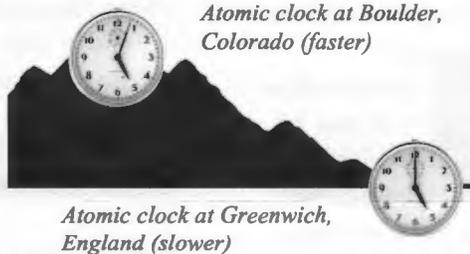
Dr. Humphreys dedicated much time studying the Bible to understand how God may have placed the stars in the heavens. Genesis 1:2 speaks of the creation beginning as something referred to as "the deep" which was made of water. God speaks of separating this water into the "waters above" and the "waters below," creating an "expanse" as stated in Genesis 1:7. Several other scriptures such as Isaiah 40:22 and Jeremiah 10:12 says God stretched out the heavens. It appears that a good scriptural argument can be made that places the "waters above" as a boundary to our universe and the "stretching out" to create an expanse or space for galaxies, stars and our solar system. In Genesis 1:14, 15, God says He placed lights in this expanse to mark seasons and to give light on the earth.

Dr. Humphreys developed a

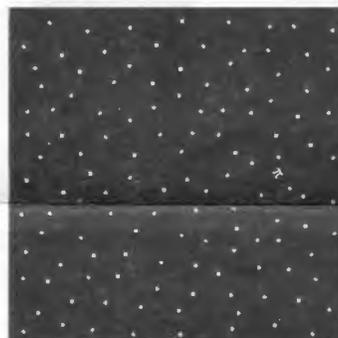
model based on the assumption that the universe has a boundary and that the earth is located near its center.

These two assumptions are quite different than those used in the popular Big Bang theory that assumes the universe has no boundary and no unique center. Although Humphreys uses the same physics

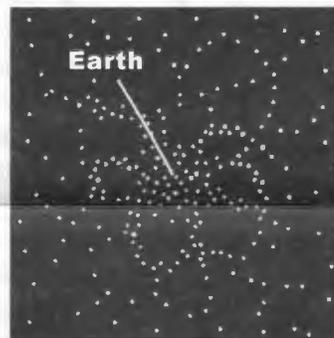
and mathematical equations that were used to develop the big bang theory, his results are drastically different due to the starting assumptions. If the boundary of the universe was much smaller when originally created, a clock located near the center of the universe would advance much slower than a clock placed near the boundary.



Gravitational Time Dilation: The rate at which an atomic clock records time is diminished as gravity increases.



The Big Bang universe as assumed — uniform (Earth could be anywhere.)



The universe as observed — not uniform. (Earth appears to be near the center.)

Dr. Humphreys' calculations show the clock placed near the boundary would record a time of as much as 20 billion years while the clock located near the center would record only three or four days. After as little as four days of time passed as recorded by the clock near the center, the universe would have expanded beyond a critical size.

Time dilation would then subside and clocks would begin to advance at similar rates throughout most of the universe.

According to the Big Bang theory galaxies should be uniformly distributed throughout the universe. However, they are not. Observational evidence shows that galaxies are less plentiful the farther they are from earth regardless of the direction of the observation. This certainly could suggest that the earth is near the center of the universe. If this is true, then our region of the universe would show the greatest time dilation. Earth time could indeed be measured in thousands of years while time appears to be measured in billions of years elsewhere.

Humphreys' theory of cosmology has been the first theory using Einstein's general relativity that presents a plausible scientific model for the creation of the universe and which coincides with a literal interpretation of the Bible. Hopefully, this will now be studied by others and refined or spawn even better models that will correlate modern cosmology and young earth creation ideas.

[Editor's note: The author of this article is a local creationist. Publishing this article is meant to open discussion on a difficult subject. Remember, Dennis is writing about

theories that are historical in nature and are not to be taken as fact. Also remember Isaiah 55:9: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." We will never know exactly how He created it all until we see God's instant replay video.— Dave Nutting] T&B

Creation Mountain Adventures

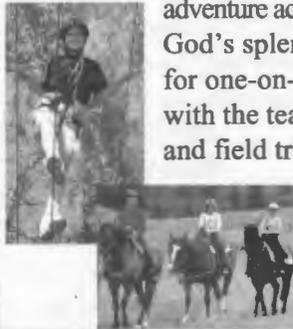


IMPORTANT CHANGE:

To better serve families with younger children, we are **adding a fun and educational children's program to Redcloud I (June 24-29)**. This will feature exciting hands-on science and outdoor education activities for kindergarten through middle school age! Twin Peaks (July 1-6) and Redcloud 2 (Aug. 12-17) already have dynamite children's programs which will continue. These will run concurrently with the adult program times. AOI's popular speakers give you the evidence for Creation, the problems with evolution, and the



importance of the issue. Afternoons and one full day will still be reserved for our famous family adventure activities in God's splendid Creation, for one-on-one fellowship with the teaching staff, and field trips. Child care for preschoolers will also be available during main sessions and during some activity times.



There is still room for your family at AOI's Creation Mountain Adventures in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. Call today to reserve your vacation of a lifetime. **Ph: (970)-523-9943** or visit **www.discovercreation.org**

Creation Excavation

A creationist dinosaur excavation has opened near Dinosaur, CO. This dinosaur dig will be used to teach the truths of creation to families who really want to get their hands dirty. This opportunity would make a great vacation stop — especially on the way to or from one of AOI's Creation Mountain Adventures. Space is limited. Contact AOI at (970) 523-9943. **T&B**



AOI

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AOI to Brazil



Richard Stepanek and the youth of his church will be in Brazil June 4-21. Rich will help Brazilians build a firm foundation in Genesis, tear down the wall of evolution, and lead people to Christ. Rich's group will also build literal foundations by helping in the construction of a new church. We are trying to be good stewards by keeping our cost of this trip to around \$1,000. If the Holy Spirit is leading you to become a prayer and/or financial partner with AOI in this creation evangelism in Brazil, please contact us. **T&B**

Upcoming Events

May 30–June 2, Manitou Spgs, Summit Min., Youth Leadership, Contact 719-685-9103 DN
June 3-9, Fort Lupton, CO, Fourway Baptist, VBS, Contact Pastor Conley, 303-536-4649 L&MJ
June 4-18, Brazil, Rich and Ryan Stepanek
June 10-16, Juneau, AK, VBS, Church of the Nazarene, Contact Doug Stude, 907-789-2724 L&MJ
June 17-23, Wasilla, AK, Mid Valley Christian Center, VBS, Contact Bob Byron, 907-376-6445 L&MJ
June 18-20, Manitou Spgs, Summit Min., Youth Leadership, Contact 719-685-9103 DN
June 20-23, Denver, CO, Christian Home Ed. Conference and Show, D&MJN, RS, M&CS
June 22-30, Colbran, CO, Jr. High Camp Twin Peaks, Contact Randy Ragsdale, 719-495-3859 RS
June 24-29, Lake City, CO, Camp RedCloud Creation Mtn Adventure, Contact 970-523-9943
June 24-30, Homer, AK, VBS, Anchor Point Nazarene, Contact Riley Hunter, 907-235-1863 L&MJ
June 30–July 3, Manitou Spgs, Summit Min., Youth Leadership, Contact 719-685-9103 DN
July 1-6, Colbran, CO, Twin Peaks Creation Mtn Adventure, Contact 970-523-9943
July 9-11, Manitou Spgs, Summit Min., Youth Leadership, Contact 719-685-9103 DN
July 8-13, Aurora, CO, VBS, Fellowship Comm., Contact Jennifer Buehler, 303-690-9047 L&MJ
July 13-29, Stonewall, CO, Camp Salvation, Contact Larry Gilstrap 719-946-5652 RS
July 22-25, Manitou Spgs, Summit Min., Youth Leadership, Contact 719-685-9103 DN
July 21-28, World Changers Missions Trip, LJ
July 24, 25, Grand Junction, AOI Newsletter stuffing party, Contact 970-523-9943