

A Biblical Answer To the Starlight & Time Problem

All references KJV

Biblical chronology indicates that the earth is young and the evidence for a young earth, if not overwhelming, is at least very substantial. There is also much evidence for a young Solar System. But, where does the idea come from that the *whole universe* was created less than 10,000 years ago? This paper will attempt to show that the Bible does not teach a *young universe* and the scientific evidence is zero. In fact, the evidence is all to the contrary.

The creation account is not talking about the second heaven, the third heaven or the heaven of heavens but rather the earth and the firmament. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The focus then immediately turns to the earth, the dry land, the firmament (sky), the water and sea. These are mentioned 56 times. How could God be more clear? In Genesis 1:8, He plainly, clearly, emphatically says, "God called the firmament heaven" (Webster would say "the sky"). He then proceeds to use "firmament of heaven" throughout the remainder of the chapter. God is not short of words. Wherever necessary He uses the words heavens, heaven of heavens and the third heaven. I think you will be amazed to read a multitude of scripture from the perspective of Genesis 1:8.

"Come now, let us reason together."

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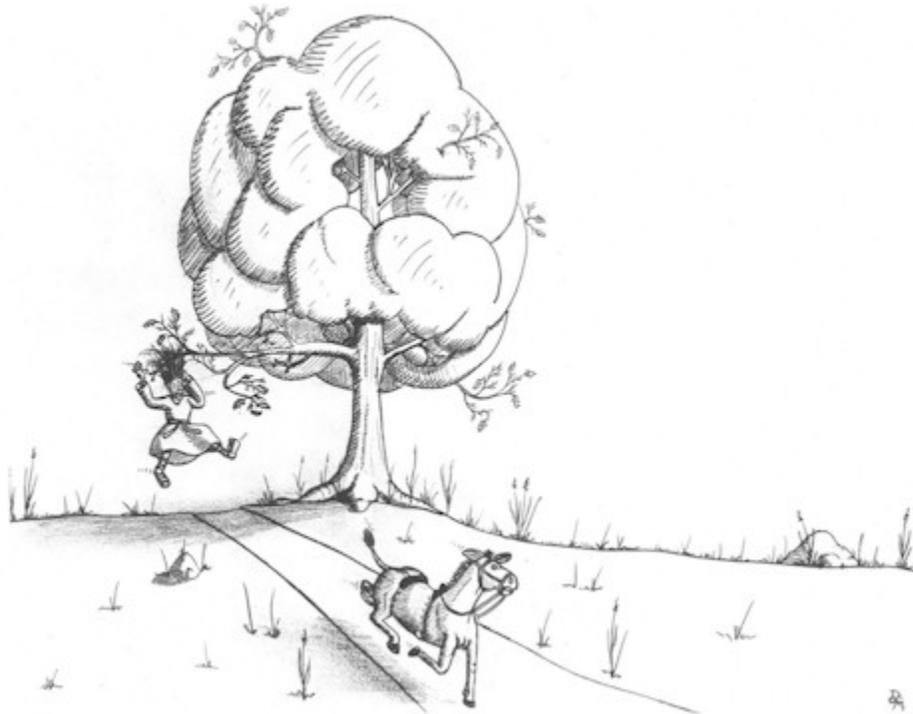
A Genesis Answer to the Starlight and Time Problem

An article appeared in the Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship Newsletter with a statement that, I think, most "young universe" people would agree with. The statement is this:

"Prior to Genesis 1:1, there was only God, in the persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ... and during this six-day creation period even the angels were created and this would include Satan." Volume 14, Jan/Feb 2002

Can it be demonstrated from the Bible that this is an erroneous interpretation?

- 1) How can God's throne be in the heavens (Psalm 11:4) and from everlasting (Psalm 93:6) if there was nothing in the universe prior to Genesis 1:1?
- 2) The Bible says in John 8:44 that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning." From the beginning of what? It couldn't be from the beginning of the universe or the beginning of his creation, because the Bible tells us that he was perfect in all of his ways until iniquity was found in him. Then he was cast to the earth, so the text must be talking about the beginning of the earth.
- 3) In Mark 10, verse 6, it says "from the beginning of creation God made them male and female." Once again the question must be answered; "The creation of what?" He must be talking about the creation of the earth because before the creation of the earth, He laid the foundations of the earth. Prior to that the angels had to be created to have the morning stars sing together and all the sons of God shout for joy. So, once again, He is really focusing on the earth.



Absalom rode under an Oak tree where his hair got caught in the branches. The Bible says he "hung between heaven and earth" so obviously we must look at the context to see which heaven the Bible is talking about, or let God define it for us — in Genesis 1:8.

Many Christians, wanting to take Genesis very seriously, have concluded that the first two chapters of Genesis are talking about an entire universe that is less than 10,000 years old. The back cover of Dr.

Russell Humphreys' book *Starlight and Time* states, "The Bible says the universe is just thousands of years old, and yet we can see stars that are billions of light-years away." I would like to ask where it says that the universe is just thousands of years old. Is that a true statement? I will attempt to show that the only clue the Bible gives is that it was created of old. How can we be more specific than scripture? Could Genesis be talking about our little corner in the universe or our solar system.

There is a very impassioned debate in some Christian circles over the age of the universe. On one side Christians look at science, think that God needed some form of evolution to help him out and propose that each creation day was not 24 hours, but eons of time. The other side, that I call Y6K people (Young 6,000-year Universe people), thinks that God created the whole universe six thousand years ago and then they jump through all sorts of hoops to make scientific observations match their interpretation of the Bible. Is the problem with science, or the interpretation of the Bible? We might even think about Galileo and the church leaders' alarm when he told them what he had observed. Was the problem with what Galileo observed, or with their interpretation of scripture? The answer is obvious and I would like to suggest that we are in the same situation today.

I believe that the first two chapters of Genesis are not a record of the creation of the entire universe, but rather an account of the creation of our corner of the universe, perhaps our solar system, formation of our earth, and the creation of life. In fact, I believe the first chapter is an introductory summary statement of the creation. Chapter two is a more detailed explanation of the creation event. The Bible says, "Of old has Thou laid the foundations,"¹ yet *there is tremendous evidence of a young earth and a young Solar System*. Some examples are biblical chronology, nickel in the oceans, the erosion of Niagara Falls, the depletion of the earth's magnetic field (run this backwards and you have a problem with an old earth), sediment in the oceans, and the possibility of disastrous tides if the moon was closer to the earth. (The moon is moving away from the earth. Run this backwards and again you have a problem with an old earth.) Pages could be written on the evidence for a young earth, yet *I'm unaware of one bit of evidence for a young universe. In fact, the evidence is all to the contrary.*

Y6K people read "In the beginning God created heaven and earth" and they assume heaven includes the second heaven, the third heaven, the heaven of heavens, the entire universe, and the multiverse (if there is one). Is there any evidence whatsoever for this assumption or is it what people have been conditioned to, or want to, believe? The evidence from scripture seems to be that it never tells us when the heaven of heavens were made or stretched out, except to say "of old".²

The Bible is clear that the earth and everything in it, and perhaps our region of the galaxy was created in six 24-hour days, by His word.

It's also clear that the Bible was written to man who lives on the earth and looks up into the heavens. For instance, if man had been on Venus, each day would be 5,376 hours long. The earth was given a lesser light. If man lived on Venus or Mercury there would be no lesser lights. If man lived on Mars, there would be two lesser lights. Jupiter and Saturn would have more than a dozen lesser lights. I would like to challenge anyone who can show me from the Genesis account of creation that it is including the second heaven, the third heaven, the heaven of heavens, the stretching out of the heavens, or the entire universe. I will attempt to show in the following pages that the Bible talks about all of these things, yet it is never part of the Genesis account of creation. Let me point out some things that are conspicuous by their absence. If Genesis is a record of the creation of the entire universe, why didn't it mention:

- a) The whole creation?³
- b) Stretching out of the heavens?⁴
- c) The creation of all things?⁵
- d) The creation of invisible things?⁶
- e) The heavens or the heaven of heavens?⁷
- f) The second heaven or the third heaven?⁸
- g) The creation of principalities and powers in heavenly places?⁹
- h) The creation of Arcturus, Orion and the Pleiades, the Chambers of the South?¹⁰
- i) The signs of the zodiac or Mazzaroth?¹¹
- j) The hosts of heaven?¹²
- k) The fact that the throne of God is of old and it's from everlasting in the heavens?¹³

- l) He stretched out the north over the empty place and hangeth the earth upon nothing? ¹⁴
- m) Binding of the star cluster Pleiades or loosening the bands of Orion? ¹⁵
- n) How high the stars are? ¹⁶
- o) Of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth? ¹⁷
- p) The Lord's throne is in heaven? ¹⁸
- q) That stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain and spread them out as a tent to dwell in? ¹⁹
- r) Thou hast made the heaven of heavens with all their hosts? ²⁰
- s) He telleth the number of the stars and He calleth them all by their names? ²¹
- t) He who created all things is the same that ascended far above all heavens? ²²
- u) The heavens were of old. (2 Peter 3:5)
- v) He created all heavens. (Ephesians 4:10)

If any two or three of the above scriptures had appeared in Genesis 1 or 2, it would be the end of this conversation.

The earth is a subatomic particle when compared to the universe; it would not even qualify as an atom because it is so small in comparison. Therefore, shouldn't it get little mention as compared to the incredible size of the universe? Yet in the first chapter, the earth is mentioned 21 times.

The stars are mentioned 66 times in the Bible, yet are only mentioned one time in the creation account in Genesis 1 and 2.

It says, "*He made* the stars also", as if to say "I want you to know, God is responsible for the stars also". Note that "*He made*" is in italics, which indicates that these words are not in the original text. Note that this reference is in connection with the firmament in verse 15, not the heaven of heavens. Keep in mind, the only stars visible to the eye are in our neighborhood, in this galaxy. I have yet to discover a star that is visible to the naked eye beyond 7000 light years. Although I have not done an exhaustive study, the point is that the stars we can see are really rather close. Due to the inverse square law, light diminishes with the square of the distance. This means that when we double the distance, the light gets four times fainter.

With an estimated count of one million quintillion stars, how much mention would you expect them to get in the creation account? One chapter? One verse? One sentence? (Keeping in mind, the earth is mentioned 21 times.) Certainly more than three words — the stars also — would be expected if Genesis 1 records the creation of the entire universe! Over 50 scriptures listed above could have been included in Genesis 1 if it was talking about the entire universe.

If in the next two minutes, I mentioned Denver, Colorado 21 times, you would be pretty focused in on Denver, Colorado, wouldn't you? Well, the first chapter of Genesis mentions the earth 21 times. The earth. It mentions heaven seven times. The firmament of heaven is mentioned nine times. I believe that Genesis is talking about the planet earth and the sky. In Genesis 1 verse 8, I believe God is trying to make it clear what he is talking about by saying "the firmament God called heaven."

Could it be that God has given us the glasses* he wants us to wear when reading Genesis? Chapter 1, verse 8 reads "The firmament God called heaven".

*Borrowed from Ken Ham

The word "shamayin" appears over 400 times in the Old Testament and is translated "heaven or heavens". However, it never specifies whether it is talking about the atmosphere where the birds fly, the area where the stars appear, the third heaven, as Paul mentioned, or even the heaven of heavens where God dwells, as mentioned numerous times in the Bible. The word "shamayin" can mean all three. As examples, which heaven are the following texts referring to?

- a) When the spies went into the Promised Land, they came back with a report that the walls of the cities reached unto *heaven*.²³ Which do you believe:
 - 1) They went out to Andromeda Galaxy at two million light years away?
 - 2) They simply appeared to reach 'high into the air'?
- b) Twenty-one times in the Old Testament, the Bible talks about the fowls of heaven. Is it talking about birds that could fly to Alpha Centauri or to the moon? No, it must be talking about the sky.
- c) When Absalom rode under an oak tree and his head got caught in a branch, the mule went out from under him and he hung himself, the Bible says, "between heaven and earth", about eight feet up.²⁴ Using the same word, shamayin, you see that the Bible considers the branches of an oak tree to be in heaven. The only way we can ever be sure which heaven the Bible is talking about is to evaluate the context in which it is used, or when God defines the context Himself.

Let's take a look, verse by verse, at what Genesis 1 and 2 have to say contextually about the second heaven, the third heaven, the heavens, and the heaven of heavens. As you will see, there is no contextual evidence. The first verse states, "In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. The earth was without form and void." There is no hint given here about what the context should be of this use of heaven, except if we let God define it in Genesis 1:8, where God calls the firmament heaven.

If you take Genesis 1:1 to mean the entire universe, then I would insist that you take Psalms 19:6 literally, as well. *How can you take Genesis 1:1 to mean the entire universe and not take Psalms 19:6 literally? It is much more specific.* It is talking about the sun and says, "His going forth is from the end of heaven and his circuit unto the end of it." Does anyone take this scripture literally and believe that the sun moves from the farthest galaxy on the east to the farthest galaxy on the west? I can imagine a heated debate 500 years ago about the interpretation of this scripture. *When did we give up the literal interpretation of Psalms 19:6?* May I suggest it was when the evidence became overwhelming? Then it was clear what the Bible was saying to man, who stands on the earth and looks into the firmament. Well, friends, I believe that's exactly where we are today.

Scientific evidence is overwhelming for an incredibly large universe and we have absolutely no evidence for a young universe.

Stars rotating faster in the center of a galaxy than the stars on the edges of a galaxy prove nothing as far as an old universe is concerned. Some would argue that this proves a *young* universe — if it were *old*, the galaxies would fly apart. Do these "young universe" people really think God would create a universe that would turn to chaos in time with all the stars and galaxies flying apart? There seems to be a tremendous powerhouse in the center of galaxies. Scientists believe it is probably a black hole that is powering the galaxy and causing the stars in the center to go faster. It may be a black hole or some other force that is causing this.

We have no credible answer to those who ask about starlight and time. Ken Ham, in the book *Starlight and Time* says, "If there was one area where the Christians' armor was weak, it is this area." He also told me recently that more work needs to be done in this area. Just an interesting side note — some would say, "I don't let scientific evidence interpret the Bible." Well, take another look at Psalms 19:6. Apparently sometimes we do let science help us to know how to interpret the Bible.

The next time heaven is mentioned is in verse 9, "and God said let the waters under the heaven be gathered together." The next mention is in verse 14 where it says, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven, to divide the day from the night." The next mention is in verse 15 and it says "and let them be for

lights in the firmament heaven." The next mention is in verse 17, "and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth." The last mention is in verse 20, where it is talking about the fowl and says, "that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." So once again we see the firmament mentioned in connection with the heaven. *The Webster dictionary defines firmament as the sky.*

In Chapter 2, the heavens are mentioned in verses 1 and 4. In verse 1 it says, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all the hosts of them." Only after the creation of the earth could it be said "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all the hosts of them". Further evidence for this could be the fact that in chapter 2 we have now gone, in every case, to the plural of the word, heavens. In comparison, chapter one generally uses heaven in connection with the firmament or the air. In chapter 2, it is now seen plural. It's also mentioned in verse 4 two different times, where it says, "these are the generations of the heaven and the earth, when they were created in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens."

We must let the Bible interpret the Bible. When we do this, it seems clear that the Old Testament uses the word heaven when talking about the atmosphere or the air where the birds fly. *Twenty-one times the term "fowls of heaven" is used. Numerous times "the dew of heaven" is used. There are over 80 cases where the word heaven is used and it is clearly talking about the atmosphere and not the entire universe.* You will notice that in every case the first chapter of Genesis uses the word heaven, not heavens, not heaven of heavens nor the second heaven nor the third heaven.

This is the bottom line — Can the reader agree that heaven can mean anything from the branches of a tree to the very last galaxy in the universe? This being an undeniable fact, how do we know what its usage in Genesis refers to? Context is one way of discerning. Six out of seven times its context in Genesis 1 is the atmosphere, not the heaven of heavens. The best way to determine context is when God defines it for us, and He does in Genesis 1:8 — "God called the firmament heaven."

If the first verse of Genesis had said "In the beginning of our solar system..." it would have made things much easier for many Christians. You see, many go through all sorts of gymnastics to justify their idea that the whole universe is less than 10,000 years old.

Changing the Speed of Light is Not the Answer

One theory, often used by the Y6K people, attempts to show that the speed of light has changed and that it was infinitely faster in the beginning of creation, but has now slowed down dramatically. This theory was suggested by Australian physicist Barry Setterfield and mathematician Trevor Norman. Depending on this assumption, the universe could be really, really big because light could travel billions of light years and get here from the far away galaxies but the universe would still be only a few thousand years old. I believe any layman could go to the library and prove that the speed of light has not changed. This could be done by studying historical recordings of supernova eruptions. For instance, Crab Nebula, M1, exploded July 4th, 1054, according to Chinese records. Scientists today have photographed the expanding Crab Nebula over periods of 15-year increments and played it back on a computer. It corresponds to the Chinese records of July 4, 1054. Had the speed of light changed, the formula would not work.²⁵ In fact, something must be propelling the expanding cloud, because it looks just the opposite. If anything, it makes it appear that the speed of light has increased in the last 1,000 years, not decreased.

Theistic Evolution is Not Biblical

Another theory is theistic evolution. In this theory God is really not big enough to do the job all by himself, so He uses evolution to help himself out. Thus, many of the theories of evolution are woven into Christianity. The Bible tells us that as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are God's thoughts

above our thoughts. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so are God's ways above our ways. I think we have no idea of what He is capable and we should not limit His capabilities. There are other problems with this theory that have to do with death before Adam's sin, which do not seem to go along with the Bible. If creatures were evolving for millions of years, we would have millions of years of death, but the Bible is clear that there was no death until Adam sinned.

Creating Interim Light is Not the Answer

Another theory people use says that God created a really big universe and then He created all the light in between so that the universe is big, yet the light appears to be billions of years old when it is only thousands of years old. Others would be quick to say God does not lie or bear false witness. Another problem with this scenario would be observing super nova eruptions that are millions of light years away, but really did not happen as they appear to be happening before our eyes. The evidence from studying the red shift indicates that this scenario is not correct.

Time Dilation is Not the Answer (Whose Clock Are You Watching?)

With all the overwhelming scientific evidence, we can no longer deny that the galaxies are billions of light years away. Why would we want to limit God so? When Galileo reported what he had seen, the theologians should have said "Galileo, keep looking, you haven't seen anything yet." They should have said, "Galileo, as high as the heavens are above the earth are God's ways above our ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth are God's thoughts above our thoughts."²⁶ Galileo, go for it. Your eyes haven't seen, your ears haven't heard, it hasn't even entered into your heart the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." In today's vernacular the theologian should have said "Galileo, you ain't got a clue."²⁷

The most difficult question that young universe creationists have had to answer is how the light gets here from distant galaxies if the universe is less than 10,000 years old.

That question is often answered with another question, "Whose clock are you using?" Since clocks run slower where gravity is weaker and faster where it is stronger, they say time could be dilated so that while a few days were passing on earth, billions of years would have been available for light to travel to earth.

Dr. Russell Humphreys states "It still means that God made the heavens and the earth in six ordinary days, a few thousand years ago." Now, I certainly wouldn't claim to be qualified to debate Dr. Humphreys, but I do have a number of questions. My first question is, "How big is the universe?" My second question is, "How big is the universe that the Hubble telescope has been able to photograph?" The third question would be, "How big is the universe that the theorists have theorized?" *For the last fifteen years I've been telling audiences that there are probably one hundred billion galaxies.* Recently, I've heard numbers as large as one trillion galaxies that can be seen. Dr. Humphreys' statement on page nine of his book *Starlight and Time* states that there are one hundred million galaxies within our viewing range. This is the only book I've encountered in the last twenty years that states that there are so few galaxies. Is Dr. Humphreys looking for the smallest numbers that he can find for the size of the universe?

When the Hubble space telescope photographed 1/25 of a degree in the north and 1/25 of a degree in the south using a ten-day exposure, 3,000 galaxies were photographed (1/25 of a degree is 1/27,000,000 of the entire sky). Using this scale as a reference, we would expect to find *81 billion galaxies within the range of the Hubble space telescope.* What would happen if we had a 20-day exposure? The next generation space telescope is scheduled to launch in 2009. This telescope is expected to see five times more galaxies than currently visible, *so now the number grows to over 400 billion galaxies.*²⁸

My next questions are, "What if the universe is 1,000 times bigger than we theorize or even a million times bigger? What if the universe is actually a multiverse?" We have looked to the north and looked to the south. We haven't seen the edge of the universe yet. What are the odds that our earth would be in the center of the universe? We have identified the farthest galaxy in the deep field Hubble photographs.

What would happen if we took the Hubble out to that very last galaxy and took another picture? Jeremiah 31:37 states, "Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel." This scripture implies that the heavens can not be measured. If we claim that the universe was created 6,000 years ago, we have attempted to measure the heavens.

If we are going to use the theory of time dilation, don't we need to know the size of the universe? It seems to me that size would be a required parameter to put into the equation. Is time dilation a rubber yardstick that always works, whether the universe is 10 billion light years in diameter or 100 billion? What if God's ways are a billion times bigger than we think?

What about Cepheid variable stars? Their brightness pulses like a human heart, only 1,000 times more predictably. If we dilate time, would we change their regularity? Supernovas, whether nearby or in galaxies millions of light years away, always share common characteristics. Their brightness increases, often outshining everything in the galaxy for a few months but then almost disappear in nine months. They are great yardsticks but they wouldn't work if time were dilated. *With the theory of time dilation, we probably need to jump through more hoops than any other proposed theory. To make this one work we need black holes, white holes, event horizons and all sorts of theoretical physics and things that we still really don't know exist.*

A 6,000 year old universe?

The next question is "How big is your God?" Can you imagine an infinite God with infinite wisdom and infinite resources who is outside of time (although we don't understand what that means) and has been in existence from all of eternity past, living in an empty universe until 6,000 years ago when he decided to create something? I don't think so.

In Proverbs chapter 8, the subject of wisdom is discussed and also wisdom's role in the creation of the universe. Verses 22-27 seem to distinguish between the creation of the earth and the creation of the heavens. In verse 23, it says "From the beginning or ever the earth was..." In verse 26 it says, "While as yet He had not made the earth..." In verse 25 it says, "Before the mountains and the hills, I was brought forth." In verse 27 it says, "When He prepared the heavens, I was there." The message in these verses is that wisdom was there when He made the heavens, which was before the earth was made.

If Genesis was a record of the creation of the entire universe, there are a lot of things that are conspicuous by their absence.

For example, *17 times in the Old Testament the Bible says that God stretched out the heavens.* He spread them out like a tent, He spread them out like a curtain. This is exactly what scientists believe today, that the universe is expanding. Not only is the universe expanding, but it now seems clear that its rate of expansion is accelerating. Not once in the first chapter of Genesis is the "stretching out of the heavens" mentioned, although it is seen in abundance elsewhere in the scripture. In John 1 it talks about the "creation of all things". Genesis 1 never mentions the creation of all things. Colossians 1:16 talks about the creation of invisible things. That is never mentioned in the first chapter of Genesis.

The Old Testament and the New Testament both speak about the "heaven of heavens". It says God's throne is in the heavens (plural). It says His throne is from everlasting. Paul talked about a third heaven. The heaven of heavens, the second heaven or the third heaven is never mentioned in the first chapter. I think that Christians should not try to make God too small. The Bible says that as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are God's ways above our ways and His thoughts above our thoughts. I think Christians lose a lot of credibility with the scientific community by insisting that the whole universe is less than 10,000 years old, particularly when the Bible does not insist that.

Dr. Hugh Ross (The Other Side of the Coin)

On one side people are teaching that the universe is six thousand years old. It is difficult to find sufficient adjectives to describe how some scientific minds feel about such naiveté. They would claim distances measured by astronomers are not reliable or accurate. Do they deny such simple laws as the

inverse square law? Let's get real. No one is claiming to measure to the last mile, but the difference of a 6,000 light-year universe and a 15,000,000,000 light-year universe is a factor of several million times. Scientific measurements would have to be off. This group, *with rock solid faith in the Bible and their interpretation of it*, place little confidence in scientific discovery about the universe. On the other hand, Dr. Hugh Ross believes in the big bang and teaches that each day of creation was actually eons. He believes in a creator that apparently needed some form of evolution to help him get the job done. Now Dr. Ross is saying the Y6K teaching has too much evolution for him. Dr. Ross needs to understand there is no evolution in this teaching. ZERO. One of his most often used phrases is "What you get is..." or "What can't happen..." He rarely gives God room to be God. God can do whatever He pleases. He is not subject to theoretical physics. He seems to have picked up a large following and is it any wonder, given that the only other choice seems to be a universe that is six thousand years old? I think Dr. Ross is very appealing to those who want to believe in God, but are overwhelmed by the scientific evidence of an almost infinite universe and the widespread acceptance of evolution by the media and general public.

Dr. Ross filters out what doesn't support the Big Bang. As scientific instruments look farther and farther into space, the Big Bang proponents have to readjust their parameters to fit. (If the universe is fifteen billion years old, then we should not be able to see farther than fifteen billion light years because that is how far the universe has expanded since the Big Bang.)

When the Rocky Mountain News had an article announcing that the Hubble's deep space photograph had just seen five times farther than ever before, I was excited! Wow! The universe just got bigger! But as I read on in the article, it was not so. They saw five times farther, but did not add one galaxy or one star to their counts. Why? I believe it's because it doesn't fit the model.

On the John Ankerberg Show, Dr. Ross made the statement that we have seen the farthest star in the universe. In Jeremiah, the Bible indicates that the heavens cannot be measured. In Job 38:4, God inquires of Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely, you know." Do you really mean to tell us, Dr. Ross, if the Hubble was allowed one more day on the deep space photographic exposure, we would not have seen any more galaxies?

Dr. Ross is way too dogmatic for me. It seems that new discoveries come along almost daily in the realm of the universe or cosmology. With each new discovery, Dr. Ross immediately has a statement to make, tying the information to the Bible. The problem with being so dogmatic about the latest discoveries, as if they came straight from the infallible word of God, is the fact that the majority of discoveries and theories seem to fall by the wayside and then one ends up with egg on one's face. *Astronomy* magazine in August of 1996 discussed the discovery of "a river of galaxies." The article says on page 44 "if the latest discoveries by Lauer and Postman are correct, we know less than nothing." We dropped a probe onto Jupiter and 85 minutes later had to rewrite all of our books on that planet. I think God must be smiling.

Dr. Timothy Ferris, a professor from Berkeley, wrote in his book, *Galaxies*, "Someone a century from now, reading what we thought about galaxies, would no doubt find much of it distorted, stunted or simply wrong" (p.15). In August of 1988 the British journal *Nature* ran an article entitled "Down with the Big Bang". The article called the theory unacceptable and predicted it may not survive another decade. In April of 1998 *Sky and Telescope* magazine printed an article on page ten which asked, "How can the Big Bang proponents keep a straight face?" The article went on to discuss the five major areas of disagreement between nature and the standard Big Bang model. *Astronomy* magazine in May of 1996 featured another article, which said, "If my colleagues and I are right, we may soon be saying good-bye to the idea that our universe was a single fireball created in the big bang." George Field of the Harvard Smithsonian center for astrophysics says that there is a real crisis with the big bang.²⁹

In order to make the Big Bang work, astronomers must invent objects that they have no other reason for believing in. Instead of using facts to construct a theory, they are using a theory to construct facts. If astronomers stick to the facts, the Big Bang falls apart. The only reason the Big Bang has survived this long is that no one in the scientific community has come up with anything better, and they would certainly not want to consider that there might be a Creator God. I think Dr. Ross has built his whole ministry around the Big Bang. It appears that he is going to ride that sinking ship all the way to the bottom. I believe he places too much confidence in science and then attempts to make the Bible fit science. George Field from Harvard says, "The Big Bang could fail altogether. It's a question of taste as to when you jump ship and go off into the unknown."

In July, 2001, Sky and Telescope, page 20 it says, the "farthest super nova clinches the case for the accelerating universe." Not only is the universe expanding, but now we know it is accelerating "in violation of all standard physics". Has anyone ever heard Dr. Ross allude to such a reference? The answer is "no". Could it be because it goes against his theory?

Someone responding to this paper has said that the foundational assumptions of physics are wrong and thus, any claims that the universe is billions of light years in diameter are not valid. That's one of the weakest arguments that I have heard. That argument might be a consideration if the differences are a factor of 100% off. But the difference between a universe in which light could travel for 6,000 years and a universe in which light could travel for 15,000,000,000 years is staggering. How far off do the scientific observations have to be to give validity to such an argument? 100 times? 1,000 times? A million times? No, scientific observations would have to be off by a factor of several million times to give any validity to this argument. Dr. Kent Hovind, in a debate with Dr. Hugh Ross, was constantly claiming that Dr. Ross couldn't measure the distance to 3C279. Why do the Y6K people try to minimize the size of the universe?

Isaiah 55:9 and Psalm 103:4 both say, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts." Are not God's thoughts infinitely higher than our thoughts? Are not God's ways infinitely higher than our ways? Then, are not the heavens infinitely bigger than we earthlings could imagine? Just as we cannot comprehend the thoughts of God, we cannot comprehend the universe.

It seems that Dr. Ross never allows for God to do any miracles. There are phrases that he wears out with every discourse. One of the phrases that he totally wears out is "What you get is..." Another phrase is "You can't have..." What I understand him to be saying is that when you run all the models this is how the universe has to be — you get this and you can't have that. I think Dr. Ross should let God be God. He opened up the Red Sea and I believe it. God can do whatever He wants in the universe. The Bible says "His ways are past finding out. He has wonders without number." Martin Luther said "If the very stars which seem so bright at night go out in the light of the sun, what would happen to the rare innocence of man when compared with God" and we might add "the knowledge of man when compared with God."

To Use a Little Logic

The Bible is clear that God has existed from all eternity past and God is outside of time. We do not understand that statement, but scientists believe that time began with the creation of the universe. The Bible clearly states that God has existed from all of eternity past and he has a throne. If the universe was only created 10,000 years ago or less, where was God's throne? I can not imagine that throughout eternity past an infinite God with infinite wisdom, infinite creativity, infinite power and infinite resources was sitting in an empty universe, twiddling His thumbs and then, 6,000 years ago He snapped His fingers and said "I have an idea! I should create a universe!" No, let's not make God too small. That leaves God so limited and deflates his omnipotence.

Some would point to Genesis 2:1 and say, "Here is one text that weakens your theory." However, there are three ways to read the text:

- 1) It is talking about the universe.
- 2) As God explains it in Genesis 1:8, it is the atmosphere.
- 3) The earth was the final object of the creation event. Only after its completion could it be said, "Thus the heavens and the earth and all the hosts of them were finished."

Mark 10:6 reads, "...from the beginning of creation God made them male and female." and again the account is all about the earth's creation, never recounting the creation of the angels, heaven or the heaven of heavens with all their hosts.³⁰

Further evidence that Christ's statement on the beginning of creation could not mean his creation of the entire universe is Job 38:4-7, which says that when He laid the foundations of the earth there were

morning stars and there were sons of God who shouted for joy. There must have been prior creation, since the morning stars sang and the sons of God shouted for joy.

Exodus 20:11 states, "for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea..." in reference to the creation account. In Genesis 1:8, God *emphatically and unambiguously says, "God called the firmament heaven" — that's good enough for me.* Why would the sea be mentioned if the context is the universe? It would be redundant, since the earth is mostly water. However the firmament, earth and sea make sense. It is also interesting to note, "*Laid the foundations of the earth" is always connected with the heavens,*³¹ *but is never mentioned in the Genesis or the Exodus 20 accounts of creation.* Could it be that sometime in eternity past God created the heavens with all their hosts and our galaxy and laid the foundations of the earth (the earth was without form and void³²), then about 6,000 years ago God formed the earth, made it inhabitable, and created man, etc.? The scripture supports this idea. The Bible says, "Of old hast Thou laid the foundations of the earth."¹ It also says repeatedly that the heavens were of old. *What would qualify as "of old"?* Certainly something more than a few thousand years, I would think. In fact the Bible gives us a clue in Micah 5:2, which is talking about the Messiah, and says, "Whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting." *The Bible tells us that the heavens were of old, the foundations of the earth were laid of old and the Messiah was of old, but then it adds that He was from everlasting.* The term "of old" is never used in Genesis 1 or 2. It is never used in connection with the creation of the earth, but in connection with laying the foundations of the earth. I am suggesting that He laid the foundations of the earth "of old" and then about 6000 years ago he formed it. Further support would be found in Psalms 90:2, and Isaiah 45:18 as well, where it says that God *formed the earth.*

A side benefit of reading Genesis as defined in 1:8 (the firmament God called heaven) is that much of scientific evidence fits nicely with the Bible. This requires no hoops to jump through, no black holes, white holes, event horizons or attempts to change constants like the speed of light. Keep in mind, astrophysicists are not total idiots, although listening to some Christians you'd begin to think so. They did predict pulsars and other things decades before they were discovered. I've given a staggering amount of evidence that supports an old universe and I don't believe I've done any violence to Genesis. In fact, Genesis is preserved and God is exalted beyond our highest human thought. I know it is excruciating to change one's cherished beliefs or interpretations. The evidence is staggering. I simply ask the question "Where is the evidence for the other side?" I am not a theologian. Perhaps there is one out there who can explain where I am wrong. I stand to be corrected. But until someone can point out the evidence to the contrary, I believe anyone intellectually honest will have to admit, the Bible has the answer.

Those interested in more information may wish to purchase Gorman Gray's book *The Age of the Universe: What are the Biblical Limits?* This book is available from Morning Star Publications at 1-888-667-6464 (1-888-MORNING) for \$12 ppd

References

- 1) Psalm 102:25
- 2) Psalm 68:33
- 3) Romans 8:22
- 4) Isaiah 42:5, 44:24, 51:13, 40:22, Psalm 104:2, Jeremiah 10:12, 51:15
- 5) Colossians 1:16, John 1:3, Ephesians 3:9
- 6) Colossians 1:16
- 7) Psalms 57:11, 68:33, 89:2&5, 102:25
- 8) II Corinthians 12:2
- 9) Colossians 1:16
- 10) Job 9:9, 38:31
- 11) Job 38:32
- 12) Nehemiah 9:6, Deuteronomy 10:14
- 13) Psalms 11:4, 93:2, 103:19, Psalm 45:6, II Chronicles 6:21, 30, 33, Job 22:12-14
- 14) Job 26:7
- 15) Job 38:31
- 16) Job 22:12
- 17) Psalm 102:25
- 18) Psalm 11:4, 93:2, 103:19, 123:1, Isaiah 66:1
- 19) Isaiah 40:22
- 20) Nehemiah 9:6
- 21) Psalm 147:4
- 22) Ephesians 4:10
- 23) Deuteronomy 1:28
- 24) 2 Samuel 18:9
- 25) Catalogue of Universe p. 152
- 26) Isaiah 55:9
- 27) 1 Corinthians 2:9
- 28) Sky & Telescope, January 2001, p. 40
- 29) The Big Bang Never Happened, Eric Lerner, P. 40
- 30) Nehemiah 9:6
- 31) Job 38:4-7, Psalms 102:25, 104:3-5, Proverbs 8:27-29, Isaiah 40:21, 48:13, 51:13, 51:16, Jeremiah 31:37, Hebrews 1:10. Zechariah 12:1
- 32) Genesis 1:2
- 33) Peter 3:5
- 34) Ephesians 4:10

Closing Arguments and the Biblical Conflicts with the Young Universe Theory

Since this paper was originally written, an article appeared in the *Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship Newsletter* with a statement that I think most "young universe" people would agree with. The statement is this:

"Prior to Genesis 1:1, there was only God, in the persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ... and during this six-day creation period even the angels were created and this would include Satan." Volume 14, Jan/Feb 2002

In another article in Volume 13, March/April 2001, the author believes I am re-interpreting Scripture to reconcile it with scientific theory as well as ignoring many scientific observations that seem to support a young universe.

May I say here, there are no scientific observations that support a young universe. All of the scientific observations are to the contrary.

Young earth? Yes.
Young solar system? Yes.
Young universe? No.

About the statement that I reinterpret the Scriptures, please read Genesis 1:8 again and again and again. Then tell me who is reinterpreting Scripture. In this verse, God Himself is telling us that the firmament (the sky) is what He calls heaven (in the creation history of the earth). Is not God telling us, "In the creation account, when I talk about heaven, I am talking about the atmosphere — the sky — around the earth."? Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship, Ken Ham and Dr. Kent Hovind (all who have wonderful ministries and are doing a great work for the Lord) would tell you, "No, this doesn't mean the atmosphere. This means the whole universe."

Let me list 18 questions/comments that illustrate tremendous, logical problems of sequence and timing if the opening statement from the Volume 13 Newsletter were true. If you agree with this opening premise then you need to ask some questions:

- 1) Does the Bible indicate anything existed prior to Genesis 1:1?
- 2) Where was God's throne prior to Genesis 1:1, because the Bible says that His throne is from everlasting in the heavens?
- 3) The Bible says that God's going forth is from everlasting. Where was he going if there was no space or no heaven?
- 4) The very first thing that happens in the building of a structure is that you lay the foundations. The Bible is clear that He laid the foundations of old. The laying of the foundations was never mentioned in Genesis 1. He told us that in Psalm 102:25.
- 5) When were the angels created? The foundations first had to be laid, and prior to that, the angels had to be created so they could shout for joy when He laid the foundations of the earth. Job 38:4-7.
- 6) When were the morning stars created? The Bible says that the morning stars sang together when the foundations of the Earth were laid.
- 7) How can it be said that Genesis 1 is a record of the creation event of the entire universe when God has defined heaven for us? He says it is the firmament. Since God defines it in verse 8, what's wrong with accepting His definition for the other seven times "heaven" is mentioned in Genesis 1?

This reminds me of the Jehovah's Witnesses who say, "I know the Bible says this, but it really means something else." In this case, the Bible tells us what He meant by the firmament, but some say God really means the second heaven, the third heaven, the heaven of heavens, the creation of all things (John 1), the creation of invisible things, the creation of principalities and powers (Colossians 1:16).

Read Genesis 1 again and highlight everything pertaining to the Earth or its surface: earth, sea, waters, firmament, dry land. You will see these things mentioned 56 times. How many times is "heaven" mentioned where it is not referring to the atmosphere? Answer: Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:9.

- 8) How long would it take for Satan to go bad? Here we have a perfect being coming from the hand of the Creator — a most exalted angel, a covering cherub, the sum of created perfection — and no one to tempt him. The Bible says he was perfect in all his ways from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him. How long would it take for him to go bad? Some time is required to establish character. How long does it take to build a reputation of perfection?
- 9) How long would it take him to develop a plan to deceive the other angels and to go against God?
- 10) If we were going to try to get all of the events into a week (or two) — from the time Lucifer wakes up, gets himself oriented to the universe, finds out who is who, until he meets Eve in the garden — there is no way all of them could happen even in one year. (Archbishop Usher would give Adam and Eve two weeks in the garden before they were expelled.)

Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28) and yet there were no children born in the garden so it had to be a short period of time. Even if it was a year, we would still have major problems. If all of the following events were to happen in two weeks or even a year, maybe the text should have said, "Thou wast rotten in all thy ways from the day thou wast created."

- 11) On day three, the trees were created and I would assume this included the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This title for a tree is a clue, perhaps, that here was something brewing in the heavens — in the universe — with Satan.
- 12) How long would it take for Satan to develop and implement a plan of rebellion? Before Satan could approach other angels in turning them against God, he would need to develop some credibility, some trust, some confidence. How long should we allow for this event since you don't just walk up to strangers and try to sell them on your ideas without any credibility with them. First, you develop some rapport.

I had an employee that turned out to be a troublemaker. Now, I had developed a relationship with my employees, of trust and respect. They were always paid on time. I did what I promised them and I think there was a level of respect for my ability to invent and create jobs. In some cases, there was a great respect. So I hire a new employee who turns out to be a troublemaker. How long does it take him to even think about bad-mouthing the boss. I know it took about two years for rebellion to bear fruit. I lost one third of my employees — two years for a dozen or so employees. How long would it take for an innumerable company of angels?
- 13) What would be the logistics of trying to do a sell job on 100,000,000 angels and convince them to rebel against God? The Bible says Satan is a liar, the father of lies. I think a great word here would be "spin." How long would it take Satan to "spin the truth" about God and convince millions of angels to go against God. Certainly this couldn't happen in a short period of time.
- 14) In Revelation 12:12 Satan is cast to the earth, and it is interesting that he is angry because he knows he has but a short time. God calls 6,000 years a short time!

- 15) How long should we allow for war? The Bible says there was war in heaven (Revelation 12:7). Certainly, this would require some time.

- 16) The Bible says that God is long-suffering and patient, not willing that any should perish. God asks us to forgive seventy times seven. Would not God be long-suffering with Satan, one of His own created beings? Would not God patiently work with him whom He had made before expelling him from heaven (Revelation 12:12)? Ask yourself, "How long would I work with my most rebellious child before I would throw him out of the house?"

In the Volume 14 issue of the same newsletter, the author says, "Satan had to fall after the sixth day of creation because the Lord clearly looks out on 'all' His creation (Genesis 1:31), not just the earth, and proclaims it to be very good." May I make an observation here. The second sentence in Genesis 1:31 says, "and the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Since the evening and the morning apply to our planet, couldn't He be looking over 'all' that He had created in the last six days and "see that it was very good?" The author could not say what he did if Satan had rebelled prior to this statement. He further states, "This would not be good and I take the Lord simply at His word and believe Him." Except, may I say, in Genesis 1, verse 8.

It is interesting that Adam and Eve received the encouraging words from God to be fruitful and multiply, then there is no record of any daily activity except for the naming of the animals. The very next event mentioned is Eve meeting with Satan at the tree. Certainly this is a very short period of time.

- 17) God pronounced His work at creation to be very good. Further proof that this is not the creation of "all things," but only earth and the solar system is seen in Mark 10:6. "From the beginning of creation God made them male and female." What day did God make male and female? It was day six. What day did He lay the foundations of the earth? Day one. The morning stars and sons of God were already created because they sang for joy.

- 18) If the initial newsletter quote is true, we would find God creating the earth, creating the universe and having a war going on in heaven during the same week. How could God's perfect creation end up in war in a week?

When it comes to the starlight travel time question: "If the universe is 6,000 years old, how does starlight get here from galaxies billions of light-years away?" In regard to this question, Ken Ham says, "This is one area where the Christian's armor is weak. May I suggest, "Of course." Like the fig leaves Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with, many Christians have tried to do the same. Fig leaves don't make very good bullet-proof vests. Dr Russell Humphreys would say that you (we) need "theoretical" physics — black holes, white holes, event horizons — to explain the starlight and time problem. Yet, we don't even know if this stuff exists.

The *Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship Newsletter*, Volume 13, says "Starlight travel time is probably the most difficult scientific theory that creationists encounter. I am confident that no astronomer has figured out the proper analytical method to solve the starlight travel time problem." It further says, "Particle physicists would have to 'unlearn' most of the Standard Model of Elementary Particles..." He indicates that we need a new model of the atom. "Therefore, a solution to the starlight travel time problem is most likely twenty years into our future." I would like to suggest once again to read Genesis 1:8. There is the answer to the starlight travel time problem.

I think that one of a couple of texts that people find in conflict with my paper would be Genesis 2, verse 1, where it says, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all the host of them." But once again, the heavens that God is talking about is the solar system, earth and atmosphere or first heaven. The heaven being created first and the earth formed 6,000 years ago. Only then could it be said thus. But don't forget, God has given us His interpretation of the heavens. In the creation account the heaven He is talking about is not the second heaven, the third heaven, the heaven of heavens, the creation of all things, the creation of the invisible things, but rather our little corner of the universe.

Another text would be Exodus 20 where it says "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is." Once again, has God not told us that the heaven in the creation account He is talking about is the atmosphere, the firmament? Take a look again at that. "The heaven, the earth and the sea." The sea is totally out of place if He is talking about the second heaven, the third heaven or the heaven of heavens since the earth is already 70% sea. If God is talking about the firmament, as He says He is in Genesis 1:8, "for in six days the Lord made the firmament, the dry land, the earth and the sea, it all fits. The sea should not be mentioned if He is really talking about His entire creation.