

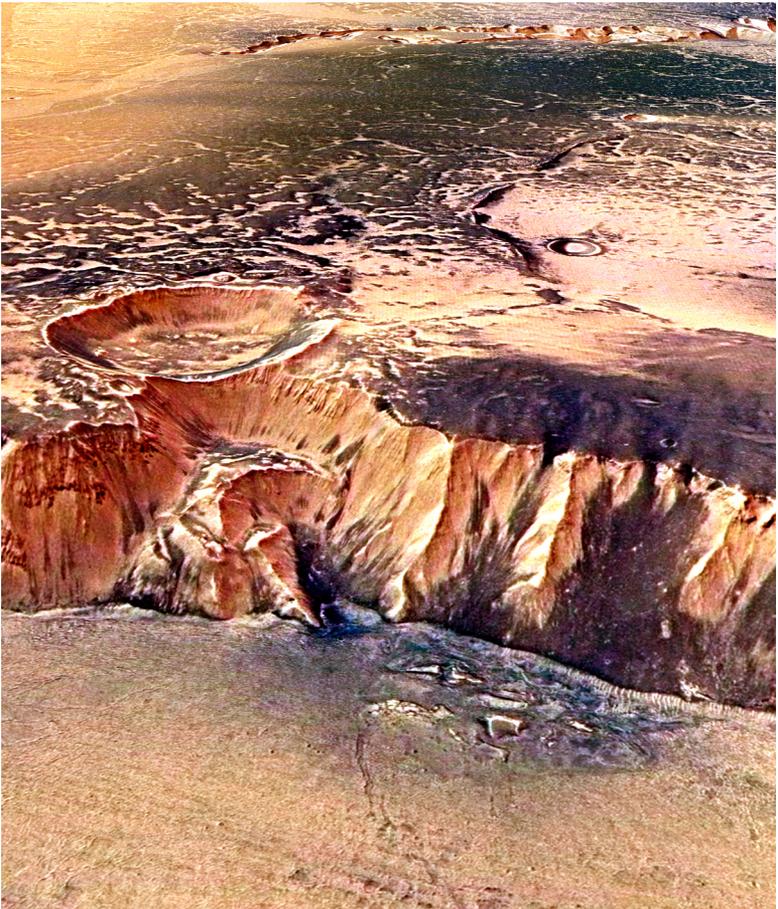
VOLUME 20

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**THE  
BIBLICAL  
ASTRONOMER**

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**WINTER 2010**



## PRODUCT LIST

(Continued from back cover.)

***The Gravitational Analog of a Rolling Ball on an Elastic Membrane***, by J. Hanson. The underlying mathematics and physics is presented for simulating gravitational trajectories by a ball or disk moving on an appropriately deformed elastic membrane. \$8.50

***The Copernican Revolution: A Fable for Educated Men***, by G. Bouw. A collection of responses submitted in response to Danny Faulkner's "Geocentrism and Creation," promoted by Answers in Genesis. Each response was submitted to *Creation Ex Nihilo* but was rejected for publication for reasons not clearly explained. (Illustrated, glue bound.) \$8.50

***Both of the above technical papers*** \$11.00

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***He Maketh His Sun to Rise: A Look at Biblical Geocentricity***, by Dr. Thos. Strouse. A critique of Creationist arguments against geocentricity as well as theological insights into geocentricity. \$8.50

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**Front Cover:** The European Space Agency's Mars Express Mission photographed Echus Chasma, the region that has the most water yet detected on Mars. The cliff rises more than 12,000 feet (4,000 m) above the floor. Courtesy, ESA/ DLR/ FU Berlin (G. Neukum).

# THE BIBLICAL ASTRONOMER

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## EDITORIAL

Work on the revised edition of “Geocentricity” is continuing. Also, *The Book of Bible Problems* has been reprinted with a new cover and a new title page; none of the text has been changed. We now have a publisher for that book, Day Star Publishers, operated by evangelist and author, Sam Gipp. For all those reasons, the price of the book is now \$19.95. We still have some copies of the original book which we will sell for \$15 until they are gone; there are only a handful left, and these will only be available by mail order to our subscribers.

### **New DVDs**

For several years, we have been unable to carry South African, Philip Stott’s videos. These have now been remastered for DVD and are again available. The two titles we carry are a geocentrically based DVD entitled *Where in the Universe Are We?* and the second is *Problems in Astronomy* which focuses on evidence of and arguments for a young universe. Each DVD costs \$25. These are the same videos as we used to offer on VHS videotapes. For more information on these see the back cover or visit our shop at <http://geocentricity.com/shop>.

### **Historic Old Anti-Copernican Book Reprinted**

In our last issue, we announced the first book reprint in our History of Geocentricity Series. That book is now available for sale. *The Fixed Idea in Astronomy*, written by August Tischner in 1885, is a reprint of the book that had by far the greatest influence on the American geocentric movement from about 1890 through the 1930s. This book introduced the accounts of Prof. Carl Schöpffer’s interviews with some of the luminaries of the time. Tischner calls Schöpffer a doubter (of Copernicus) who interviews some of the most renowned astronomers and naturalists in Europe (von Humboldt, Encke, von Raumer, Lamont, Gauss, and even Hegel and Schelling) about the evidence for and against the Copernican universe. For almost forty years, every American geocentric author quoted some of these accounts. Among those who did so are John Watts de Peyster, Frank Allaben, Louis Lange, and Lutheran pastor and astronomy text author Friedrich Pasche. Tischner includes a couple of accounts that are not quoted by any other author.

Tischner goes on to describe a certain double-mindedness; one might even call it schizophrenia, exhibited by 19<sup>th</sup> century astronomers about the motion of the sun through the universe. In my introduction to the reprint, I demonstrate through the Michelson-Morley experiments

conducted by Dayton C. Miller that the same double-mindedness persists in the minds of astronomers to this very day, and that the theory of relativity is solidly founded on said double-mindedness.

### **Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary Update**

In the Fall 2008 issue of *The Biblical Astronomer*, we reported on the attempt to close down Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary in Newington, Connecticut.<sup>1</sup> At that time the new pastor, Dr. Rob Pitts, decided that there were too many heresies in the seminary (i.e., geocentricity, not to mention the defense of the KJV which put to shame Pitts' "Alma Maters"). We now have an update.

Because of those things and other doctrinal issues, the church split with the seminary leaving Emmanuel Baptist Church. The seminary has been renamed Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. It is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church, 40 Country Squire Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. The first seminary commencement service for BBTS is scheduled for May 16, 2010. Dr. Thomas Strouse is now the pastor of the church as well as Dean of the Seminary. We fervently pray that the theological journal that was started in Newington and killed by Dr. Pitts may soon be resurrected in the new home of the Seminary. There may not be much hunger for sound doctrine in American churches today, but for the very elect, there is a real paucity of meat when it comes to scriptural doctrine.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The trouble with Socialism is, sooner or later you run out of other people's money.

—Margaret Thatcher

When you subsidize poverty and failure, you get more of both.

—James Dale Davidson,  
National Taxpayers Union

The more corrupt the state, the more it legislates.

—Tacitus

A Liberal is a person who will give away everything he doesn't own.

—Unknown

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<sup>1</sup> Bouw, G. D., 2008. "He Maketh His Sun to Rise: Truth or Consequences," *B. A.*, **18**(126):91.

# THE CHICKEN LITTLE EFFECT

**Gerardus D. Bouw, Ph.D.**

There is an old fable that goes something like this: One clear, sunny day a hen named Chicken Little went for a walk in the woods. As chance would have it, an acorn fell from a tree and hit her on the head. The sudden impact frightened Chicken Little, filling her with dread and fear. There could be no other reason than that she was hit on the head by a piece of the sky. She would have to warn the king.

In a panic, she ran to perform her duty. Along the way, she met Henny Penny who asked her why she was running. Chicken Little told her that the sky was falling in the woods.

“How do you know?” asked Henny Penny.

“I saw it with my own eyes and heard it with my own ears, and besides, a piece of sky hit me on the head,” replied Chicken Little.

So they both ran off to tell the king. Along the way they convinced others, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey, and Cocky Locky. Lastly, they encountered Foxy Loxy who, hearing of their mission, heard opportunity knocking.

Feigning alarm, Foxy Loxy told them he knew of a short cut to the king’s palace through a tunnel in the ground. They all ran into the tunnel, with Foxy Loxy in the rear, and were never heard from again.

The story is rich in morals. The one mentioned most often is to be brave and not a coward, but Chicken Little’s problem was not bravery but stupidity. Then there is the political moral; Chicken Little whips the population into mass hysteria, which the politician turns to his advantage. Then, too, there is the P.T. Barnum moral, “There’s a sucker born every minute.” Lastly, there is the moral I drew as a child listening to the story, which was not to jump to conclusions. Chicken’s immediate, emotional doomsday reaction to a harmless natural event is called “The Chicken Little Effect.”

Chicken Little’s prediction of disasters abounds in the world and entices many to join her parade to warn the king. In 1974, John Gribbin and Stephen Plageman wrote a book called, *The Jupiter Effect*, in which they predicted that during the planetary alignment of 1982, atmospheric tides induced by the alignment, specifically by the planet Jupiter, would increase air pressure on the continent just enough to trigger disastrous earthquakes. Gribbin and Plageman’s book triggered enrichment of their bank accounts and they had time to enjoy their profit, for 10 March 1982 came and went without the slightest hint of disaster.

In his 1981 book, *Doomsday*, Charles Berlitz predicted that the gravitational tides of the planetary alignment of 5 May 2000 would spell disaster, inducing polar shifts, the resurfacing of Atlantis, and problems in the Bermuda Triangle. Undaunted by the failure of the more significant 1982 alignment, 5 May 2000 came and went without a hint that any of Berlitz's prophecies came to pass.

## 2012 Doomsday

Perhaps you have not yet heard of the latest get-rich swindle: the earth is going to end in 2012. Yes, on 21 December 2012, the world's greatest authorities tell us, the world will be beset by disaster after disaster until it is destroyed; maybe for ever. If you have not heard of the demise of the earth in 2012, you have not been listening to all-night talk shows on the radio, have you?

Who are these "world's greatest authorities"? Well, Hollywood for one. The movie *2012* will be in theatres by the time you receive this. Hollywood moguls poured \$200 million into the making of that film which will, of course, destroy New York City. At least two more 2012-based movies will follow over the next two years. You can bet that Hollywood's Mother Nature will vent her wrath on the politically incorrect and the environmentally irresponsible in 2012. Other "experts" include Dennis and Terrence McKenna, José Argüelles, John Major Jenkins, and a latecomer, James Paul Wagner

According to 2012-believers, on December 21, 2012, the solar system will swing into a "transcendental" alignment with the heart of the Milky Way. As a consequence of the alignment, the earth will be hit by a rogue planet called Nibiru, whose existence has been kept super-secret by NASA and the press even though it is already visible to the naked eye in the Southern Hemisphere. All this was *known* to the ancient Mayans whose secret was lost to history when the conquistadores' lust for gold stopped the Mayan practice of human sacrifice. Fortunately, diligent, intrepid, geniuses who are not afraid to fight the censorship of governments, science, NASA, and religious naysayers such as yours truly, have resurrected the long-lost Mayan knowledge.

## The Secrets of the Mayan Calendar

On 21 December of 2012, the Mayan calendar's year number ends in a string of zeroes, namely 13.0.0.0.0. This event is about as meaningful as the zeroes ending the year 2000. The reader may recall that there were also dire predictions associated with the year 2000. The

predictions appertaining to 13.0.0.0.0 are no different, just more mysteriously embroidered in occult superstitions.

The Mayan calendar counts days and is based on multiples of twenty. There are two types of Mayan calendars: the Short Count calendar which was in common use among the Mayans, and the Long Count calendar which is the one of 2012 interest. The right-most 0 of 13.0.0.0.0 is the day number. Consider Table 1: the day numbers range from one through 20. On the 21<sup>st</sup> day, the second place from the right is incremented, becoming a 1. That counts *winals*, where one *winal* equals 20 days. After 18 *winals*, that is, after 360 days, the third zero increments signify the passage of 1 *tun*. A *tun* is the equivalent of a lunar year. After 20 *tuns*, signifying the passage of 7,200 days, the third zero increments to 1 corresponding to one *katun* or 19.71 years. Finally, after 20 *katuns*, the leftmost place increments making one *baktun*, corresponding to 144,000 days or 394.3 years.

Representation	Long Count subdivisions	Days	~ solar years
0.0.0.0.1	1 k'in	1	1/365
0.0.0.1.0	1 winal = 20 k'in	20	0.055
0.0.1.0.0	1 tun = 18 winal	360	0.986
0.1.0.0.0	1 k'atun = 20 tun	7,200	19.71
1.0.0.0.0	1 b'ak'tun = 20 k'atun	144,000	394.3

**Table 1:** Long Count Calendar Counts.

The time for 13 *baktuns* to elapse corresponds to 5,125.9 years, dating back to about 11 August 3114 B.C. in the Gregorian calendar. This date is about 770 years before the Flood and is considered by the Mayans to be the date of the creation of the current world system. There is some debate as to whether the date of creation in the Mayan calendar was 13.0.0.0.0 or 0.1.13.0.0.0.0 or whether it should be 0.0.0.0.0.0. Generally, the first is used, but the same people who start at 13.0.0.0.0 for the creation day, number the next day as 0.0.0.0.1 and then continue past the 13.0.0.0.0 of 2012 to 14.0.0.0.0 on 26 March 2407, which is followed by 15.0.0.0.0 and on to 20.0.0.0.0 = 1.0.0.0.0.0 on October 13, 4772. To be consistent with the numbering of the creation count, 22 December 2012 should be 1.0.0.0.0.1, not 13.0.0.0.1. If all this is confusing, it is; for we really do not know even whether the ancient Mayans had universal agreement on the dating scheme, let alone how they counted the cycles.

## Enter the Obfuscators

There is no shortage of books trying to capitalize on the 2012 myth. All are steeped in New-Age mythology. The first appeared in 1975. Written by Frank Walters, there is but a brief mention of the calendar cycles' end in *Mexico Mystique*. Walters called the 13<sup>th</sup> baktun a "Mayan Great Cycle" of 5200 years. He equated five such cycles with legendary eras, each ending with the death and rebirth of the earth. He placed the end of the current baktun at 24 December 2011. The problem is that the Mayans have no such tradition about the death and rebirth of the earth.

The second book also appeared in 1975. Brothers Dennis and Terrence McKenna wrote *The Invisible Landscape: Mind, Hallucinations, and the I Ching*. When the book was published, Terrence McKenna had survived half a decade of psilocybin mushrooms and DMT (dimethyltryptamine) use. From his drug experiences, Terrence concluded that the universe has a teleological (purpose-driven) attractor located at the end of time that increases interconnectedness, eventually reaching a singularity of infinite complexity in 2012, at which point anything and everything imaginable will occur simultaneously. In his 1993 edition, McKenna placed the date of the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> baktun at the currently-accepted date of 21 December 2012.

In 1987, José Argüelles wrote *The Mayan Factor: Path Beyond Technology*. Argüelles claimed that on baktun 13 the earth will be connected to the galactic center, the center of the Milky Way, by an "impalpable beam" emanating from the galactic center. These "invisible galactic life threads," as Argüelles called them, are supposed to link people, planets, sun, and galactic center. Of course, there is no such idea in Mayan lore.

Undaunted, Argüelles continued his speculation, concluding that the planets are "orbiting, harmonic gyroscopes" that "play a role in the coordination of the beam," which, in turn, helps DNA to evolve. With Argüelles' book, the current New-Age 2012 juggernaut got underway.

Argüelles was also the man who predicted, with worldwide fanfare that the triangular planetary alignment of 16-17 August 1987 would induce a "harmonic convergence." (Never mind that unless they lie in a straight line, three planets will always form a triangle.) Thousands of disciples gathered at earth's psychic nexus (linkage) points, to create a "synchronized and unified bio-electromagnetic collective battery." But, the gods of the New Age must have overslept, for they failed to meet the faithful at the appointed time and thus left uncharged the dead collective battery. Expect the galactic life threads of 2012 to be equally dead.

The next well-connected New Age proselyte to jump on the juggernaut was John Major Jenkins. Jenkins synthesized several of the above themes in his 1995 book, *Mayan Cosmogogenesis 2012*. Jenkins claimed that the ancient Mayan priests designed their calendar so that the thirteenth baktun ended with the winter solstice (first day of winter) of 2012. At that time, Jenkins claimed, the earth, sun, and center of the Galaxy will be in perfect alignment.

The planets, moon, and the sun travel in roughly the same plane known as the plane of the ecliptic. In particular, the ecliptic is the path the sun traces against the background stars over the course of the year. The 12 constellations that line the ecliptic are collectively known as the zodiac, and every year the sun passes through each constellation in turn. Additionally, over time, the sun's annual passage appears to precess counterclockwise by one degree every 72 years. This movement, widely attributed to a wobble in the earth's axis, is called the precession of the equinoxes.<sup>1</sup> As a result, roughly every 2,160 years, the constellations that mark the starts of the four seasons progress to the next one east of it. In Western astrological traditions, this signals the end of one astrological age (currently the Age of Pisces) and the beginning of another (Age of Aquarius). It takes some 26,000 years for the precession of the equinoxes to make one circuit around the ecliptic.

The places on the ecliptic where the sun is located on the first days of summer and winter are called the solstices, for that is where the sun stops and reverses its yearly north-south movement. At the winter solstice, the sun stops its southward movement and starts heading northward; at the summer solstice, the sun's northward motion reverses southward. The summer solstice is located in Gemini, the winter solstice in Sagittarius.

Now it just so happens that the center of the Milky Way is also located in the constellation Sagittarius. The impression given by Jenkins, and especially by Argüelles, is that on 21 December 2012 the earth, sun, winter solstice, and galactic center are all exactly in line. Jenkins makes no such claim directly. Instead, he proposes that the Mayans arranged their calendar to end when the winter solstice aligns with the southern end of the Great Rift, the dark band that appears to split the summer Milky Way in two from about the constellation Cygnus to Sagittarius. Mayans called the Rift the "Black Road." Actually, the Great Rift is a cloud of dust lying near us in the plane of our galaxy and obscuring the stars behind it. However, Jenkins fell short of 2012 for his location of the southern end of the Black Road was reached in

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<sup>1</sup> Equinox means equal day and night. The equinoxes are six months apart, happening when the sun crosses the equator.

1998. All these things are located in Sagittarius, it is true, but they can never fall in a straight line.

Jenkins' disaster scenario is a "black hole alignment." When the galactic alignment occurs, according to Jenkins, it will somehow create a combined tidal effect between the sun and the supermassive black hole at the center of our galaxy, wreaking havoc on the earth. But, as mentioned earlier, Jenkins' calculation for the black hole alignment uneventfully came and went in 1998, fourteen years before the end of the Mayan calendar.

There is one more voice to be heard from regarding the end of the world in 2012 and that is the voice of Michael Drosnin. If the name sounds familiar that is no surprise for Drosnin wrote the book, *The Bible Code*.<sup>2</sup> In his sequel, *Bible Code II*, Drosnin finds the words, "comet," "5772," and "earth annihilated." The Jewish year 5772 overlaps part of 2012. Drosnin's bible code also predicted disaster for 2000, none of which happened. Some professing Bible believers put great stock in Drosnin's work even though Drosnin claims that the code was written by extraterrestrial beings who also established the DNA of the human genetic code in earth. Drosnin presents his version of the 2012 theory in *The Bible Code II*, claiming that the aliens who brought the code also left the key to the code in a steel obelisk. Drosnin has been unable to find said obelisk which he believes is buried near the Dead Sea. Some of Drosnin's disciples claim as many as three comets will hit the earth in 2012. I am reminded of the truism: "If a man messes with God's words, God messes with that man's mind."

What kind of disasters are forecast for 2012? Basically they fall into three categories, Nibiru, geomagnetic reversals, and stopping the earth's core. Let's look at these.

### **A Litany of Disasters I: Nibiru**

In 1995, New Age channelers, that is, people who conduct séances with aliens from other planets, learned of a secret planet orbiting the sun with a period of 3,600 years. The planet was called Planet X and was scheduled to destroy the earth or, at least, wreak havoc in 2003. When Planet X, now called Nibiru, did not show up in 2003, it was rescheduled for 2012. The aliens who originally told the channelers of Planet X must have been ill-informed, however, for now they say that it is a brown dwarf star. Of course, astronomers know nothing of its existence, or maybe they are keeping it secret, covering up the disas-

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<sup>2</sup> For a critique of Drosnin's methodology, see Bouw, G. D., 1998. "The Bible Code," *B.A.* 8(83):21. The article is posted at [geocentricity.com](http://geocentricity.com).

ter so that people will not panic. New-ager, Dr. Jaysen Rand, has this to say about the appearance of Nibiru in 2012:<sup>3</sup>

If our researched theory regarding “X’s” next return date comes true, once the approaching brown dwarf star becomes visible in the sky the general public is going to panic! In this climate of fear, if the government allows “law and order” to break down spilling anarchy into the streets, unruly crowds will severely damage the vital economic infrastructure by which the U.S. and most other western economies are so dependent. If uncontrolled rioting and mayhem spill out of local neighborhoods and into the business districts of society (burning, looting and ultimately destroying the businesses that drive this and other global economies), we’re going to have a very difficult time recovering from these upcoming and unanticipated disasters. Let’s not forget what happened to New Orleans—where “things” are still not the same there two years later.<sup>4</sup>

Some New-agers, such as Rand, think that Nibiru is the Wormwood of Revelation 8:10-13.<sup>5</sup> They also think it was Nibiru’s tidal influence that parted the Red Sea for Israel. The problem is that the smallest brown dwarfs are thirteen times as massive as our largest planet, Jupiter. Jupiter’s diameter is eleven times the diameter of earth and its mass is 318 times the mass of the earth. That means that the smallest brown dwarf, 13 times as massive as Jupiter, weighs in with a mass 4,134 times the mass of the earth. And that is supposed to fall into the sea and kill only a third of the life on earth? Allow me to put it this way: to Nibiru, if it existed, a collision with earth is like a grasshopper colliding with a car’s windshield. And I do mean that earth is the grasshopper in that analogy. Yet the prognosticators confidently predict Nibiru will pass within a “few miles of earth.” There is no way that the occult’s Nibiru could be Scripture’s Wormwood.

### **A Litany of Disasters II: Geomagnetic Reversals**

Among the predicted 2012 disasters is the disappearance of the earth’s magnetic field. Various that disappearance, postulated as part

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<sup>3</sup> Rand, J. “Planet X / Nibiru / Wormwood 2012.” [www.returnofplanet-x.com](http://www.returnofplanet-x.com).

<sup>4</sup> For those of you who do not know how the New Orleans police maintained law and order, let me tell you. First, the police went door to door in middle-class neighborhoods searching every house for and confiscating all firearms. This they did to eliminate looting and violence in New Orleans. With honest citizens thus disarmed, those in ghetto neighborhoods, where the police were too cowardly to collect guns, ransacked and assaulted the disarmed, now-defenseless middle-class neighborhoods, raping, robbing, beating, and killing at will. That is liberals’ concept of keeping “law and order.”

<sup>5</sup> For more on Wormwood, see: Bouw, G. D., 2007. “Wormwood,” *B.A.* 17(119):20.

of a flip of the earth's magnetic field, is blamed on the sun, or on Nibiru, or on the center of the Milky Way, or on an asteroid or comet, or on a close passage of one of the planets. Question is, would it even be a disaster if the earth's magnetic field did flip? Likely not.

First, a misconception. The flip of the earth's north and south magnetic poles is not the same as flipping the rotational poles of the earth. Flip the rotational axis so the geographic poles are reversed and you flip the magnetic poles, too. When we speak of flipping the magnetic field, we mean that it decreases to zero strength and then increase with poles reversed.

In order for the magnetic field to flip, the magnetic field must collapse upon itself, "push" itself through the core of the earth, and emerge on the other side. As far as we know, this can only be done by stopping and then reversing the flow of matter in the core of the earth. It cannot be done in a short time by any magnetized body passing by the earth unless the body's magnetic field is very, very much stronger than earth's such as we find in magnetic stars (magnetars). Since the surface temperature of a magnetar is about 180,000 degrees Fahrenheit (100,000 kelvins), the earth would be vaporized long before earth's magnetic field would flip.

Another proposed cause for disruption of the earth's magnetic field involves the magnetic field of the sun. In this scenario, tremendous magnetic storms arise on the sun and the worst solar storm in fifty years will occur during the solar maximum of 2012. The storm will be so violent that it disrupts the earth's magnetic field. This would cause major disruptions in communications, electrical patterns and weather phenomenon here on earth, but it's not enough by itself to raise much of a panic. Now this claim implies that a solar storm fifty years earlier, in 1962, was as bad or worse than the one predicted for 2012. If that solar storm did not flip the earth's magnetic field then, why should we expect a weaker one to flip it 50 years later in 2012?

The prediction of violent magnetic storms was made several years ago. In the meantime, the solar minimum has gone on for four years, just resuming the next cycle earlier in 2010. The next solar maximum will most likely be weak and will not happen before 2014 or 2015, long after 12/21/12 will be forgotten.

### **A Litany of Disasters III: Stopping the Earth's Core**

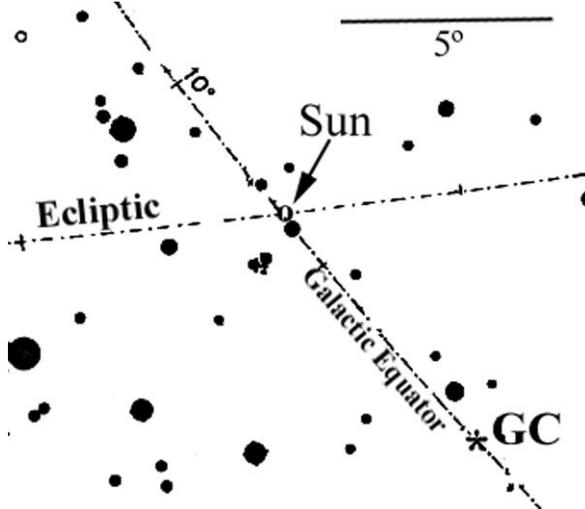
In this scenario, the earth's core stops rotating. Just how this can come about is not clear. The consensus among advocates of this disaster appears to be that somehow man, through his machinations forces the core of the earth to stop rotating. There is no physical way to sud-

denly stop the rotation of the core without tearing the earth apart. The earth might be able to do it if the mantle collapsed on the core, but since the mantle already rests on the core there is no mechanism known by which it can collapse any further. As for man-caused stoppage of the core, that is as unlikely as a fly bench-pressing 1,000 pounds.

### Black Hole Alignment Revisited

Both Argüelles and Jenkins proposed that when the galactic alignment occurs it will somehow create a combined gravitational effect between the sun and the supermassive black hole known as Sagittarius A\* at the center of our galaxy and wreaking havoc on earth. Apart from the fact noted earlier that the “galactic alignment” predicted by Jenkins already happened in 1998, the sun’s apparent path through the zodiac as seen from earth does not take it near the true galactic center, but rather several degrees above it. Even if this were not the case, Sgr A\* is 30,000 light years from earth and would have to be more than 6 million times closer to cause any gravitational disruption to the solar system. A gravitationally-induced disruption of earth or solar system can be ruled out.

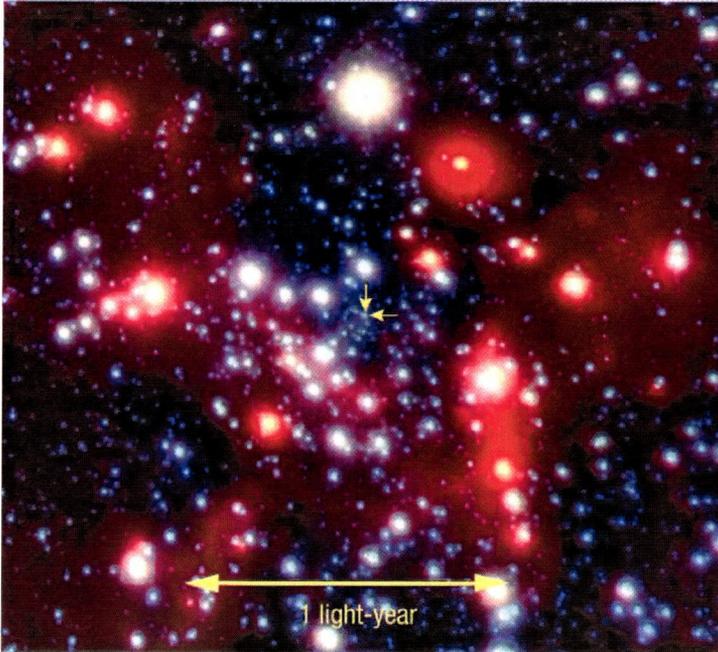
The black hole alignment is pictured in Figure 1. Note that the intersection of the ecliptic and the equator of the galaxy (Galactic Equator) is about six degrees which is a dozen times the apparent diameter of the sun.



**Fig. 1:** *Region Around the Winter Solstice 2012.* The sun is shown actual size about to cross the galactic equator. The star GC marks the location of the black hole at the center of the Milky Way.

Note, too, that the closest approach of the sun to the black hole is about four degrees to the east (right) of the sun's indicated position. The winter solstice will not be at its closest to the galactic center's black hole for another two hundred years.

The two arrows in the center of Figure 3 point to the dreaded supermassive black hole at the center of the Galaxy. This deep infrared false-color photo shows how faint and tiny the black hole is that many now believe will wreak havoc in 2012. The scale on the bottom of the picture shows how far one light year is compared to the "mysterious" perpetrator of the "devastating disasters" predicted by the New Age occultists. From the hype, it sounds like the black hole is ready to swallow up the entire Milky Way in December 2012. But when we put the supermassive black hole in the perspective of this European Southern Observatory photo (Figure 2), the bogeyman black hole does not exactly fill one with terror, does it?



**Fig. 2:** *Black Hole at the Galactic Center located by arrows.* (Courtesy ESO)

Of course, the charge is made that NASA is once more covering up the "truth," and, of course, the twenty-first century shamans know all about the truth behind the cover-up. Naturally, if none of the disasters NASA is denying and which Argüelles and Jenkins are predicting

come to pass, it will be someone else's fault or someone will be credited with saving the earth. Some people even believe that the sun will fall into the galactic black hole on 21 December 2012. That means the sun will have to fall about 10,000 light-years in a matter of hours, or the universe is so very much smaller than the distance from earth to the moon.

## Summary

Let us put these things into perspective.

1. The central black hole of the galaxy is some 4,000 light years off-center from the winter solstice where the sun will be on 21 December 2012. It is impossible for the earth and sun ever to be in line with the galactic center. The sun will never eclipse the galactic center.
2. Although the Mayans have differing interpretations of that date on their calendar, they know nothing of disasters scheduled for 2012.
3. The Mayans don't even know what their calendar date should be on 22 December 2012, the first day of the thirteenth baktun. Should it be 0.0.0.0.1, or 13.0.0.0.1, or 0.1.13.0.0.0.1 or 0.1.0.0.0.0.1? All of those numbers appear to be possible among the Mayan calendrical records.
4. Contrary to the myth that the sun will be within two or three degrees of the galactic center, the sun will not be that close for another 200 years from now.
5. The Mayan calendar does not predict the end of the world. Indeed, a 7<sup>th</sup> century inscription predicts that there will be a celebration in memory of King Pascal of Palenque, who was king at the dedication of a monument, on 15 October A.D. 4772!
6. Except for divine intervention, there is no way that the core of the earth can "stop rotating," that is to say, can stop its internal convection to turn off earth's magnetic field between now and 2012. For the same reason, the earth's magnetic field cannot flip within a handful of years, let alone days.
7. There is no planetary alignment in 2012. Throughout history, there have been many planetary alignments, but none has had any noticeable effect on the earth (other than panic induced by astrologers and doomsayers). Certainly none has cause global disasters.

8. There is no Nibiru or Planet X. Any sizeable object from the Kuiper belt, the region whence come most comets and which is proposed as the source for planet X, will take at least forty years to get to earth, and most at most 200 years. Suggested Kuiper belt objects to wreak havoc in 2012 include Pluto and Eros. It would take Pluto roughly 100 years to fall from where it is into the sun and Eros even longer.
9. A brown dwarf, as has also been proposed as Nibiru, would today be by far the brightest object in the sky after the moon and the sun. Although it is claimed that Nibiru is already visible in the southern hemisphere, no one in the southern hemisphere has reported it. The same holds true for any other large Kuiper belt object heading our way.
10. Today's Mayans know nothing about five of the great calendrical cycles, each ending in the death and rebirth of the earth.
11. The Bible says nothing about 2012. In particular, it says that there are at least 1,000 more years before the end of the world.
12. Other legends associated with 2012, such as the Hopi legend, Mother Seaton, Nostradamus, etc., are so vague and have such a questionable history that they cannot be relied upon.

### **Real Hazards of 2012**

None of the fantastic, occult events predicted to happen in 2012 are realistic. But there are some things that could happen. One is a small unforeseen asteroid or a comet that could hit the earth. The possibility exists but seems unlikely. In any case, it is not something you can plan for unless you know where it is going to hit. We know from Scripture that the earth will not be destroyed in 2012. That may be small comfort to an atheist, but it should allay the fears of Christians.

Perhaps the greatest hazard of 2012 is that the speculations and scare tactics may lead many people to panic. We have seen things like this before. The Heaven's Gate cult that committed mass suicide in San Diego trying to hitch a ride on a spaceship that was supposedly trailing comet Hale-Bopp is one example. The story is well worth repeating here since it shows the type of perils the New Age<sup>6</sup> movement presents to its adherents:

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<sup>6</sup> I should add that the New Age movement is closely associated with the One World or New World Order.

...About a month ago an event happened which follows precisely from the demise of the knowledge of God. I refer to the so-called "Heaven's Gate" affair in Rancho Santa Fé, California, in which 39 people committed suicide in circumstances reminiscent of the more than 900 suicides which occurred in Jonestown, Guyana, in November of 1978 under the tutelage of the late and unlamented James Warren Jones. Both leaders were communistic sodomites who preyed on peoples' need for God while keeping them totally in the dark (occult) of the true knowledge of God, that is, of true science. Both leaders, too, had Charismatic backgrounds whose uncritical emphasis on the "gifts of the spirit" opens its practitioners to demonic possession.

Allow me to present some of the faulty "scientific reasoning" used by the Heaven's Gate group to illustrate the role which modern "science" (evolutionary superstition) plays in the minds of such groups; and to point out that we can expect more and more such acts of stupidity; and to show the role which comet Hale-Bopp played in the cult.

The history of the Heaven's Gate cult, how it was founded by Marshall Applewhite after a near-death experience in a hospital where he'd committed himself to be "cured" of his sodomite tendencies, and how the group looked for an alien space craft, a "UFO," to come and rescue them from this life to *evolve* them to a "higher form of life:" that history is well documented. The theme about aliens coming in a spaceship, or having to commit suicide to reach the "higher plane" was nothing new nor original with the cult. In the late sixties and early seventies, for example, a San Francisco rock-and-roll band called the Jefferson Airplane sang of hijacking a starship (then expected about 1980) and riding it into the sun so that its human occupants would evolve into a "higher life form." The band was serious enough about that to change its name to "Jefferson Starship." Today, millions of Muslims under the leadership of Louis Farrakhan look for their salvation to an alien "mothership" which will destroy the Caucasian race and turn the world into a Muslim utopia.

There were two factors which led to the Heaven's Gate cult's belief that their UFO was in the tail of Hale-Bopp. The first came from Courtney Brown, a professor at Amory University who claims to be a "*scientific* remote viewer." Remote viewers are used by the military (especially the Communist military) to look into buildings and locations where eye and spy cannot go. From Brown originate the "knowledge" of underground Martian cities, and the speculations of the "face" on Mars, not to mention

the “ruined cities” on the moon. It was this same Brown who “scientifically remote-viewed” a UFO four times the size of the earth, packed with aliens, accompanying Hale-Bopp. Sound reasonable? Only if the aliens have a “cloaking” device, for the nucleus of the comet (the obscure part) is only about 20 miles in size and the rest of it, the coma, is transparent. The comet is less distant from us than Mars and so any ship four times the size of the earth should be visible to the naked eye, let alone by telescope.

Added to this myth was the second factor, a report by a Texas amateur astronomer, Chuck Shramek, who on November 14<sup>th</sup> took a picture of Hale-Bopp and recorded a “Saturn-like” object near the comet. Not finding it on his computerized star charts, that very night he announced on the Art Bell radio show that he’d found a new planet. In actuality he’d photographed a star. It turns out, that in printing his computerized star chart, Shramek had configured his program in such a way that the star did not show up on the printout, even though it was in his computer. His report fueled Usenet speculations, spawned by Brown’s remote viewing, that the comet is either itself a space ship or is followed by a space ship. And so it came to pass that the Heaven’s Gate cult, seeing their hope confirmed by “science,” and mindful of the example of its remote ancestor, that first fish which jumped out of the water onto land only to find its gills “scientifically” changed to nostrils; leaped to Courtney’s spaceship, thus evolving *en route* into a higher form of life. Modern science? It’s nothing but Oriental mysticism and the occult.<sup>7</sup>

As noted in our opening parable of Chicken Little, government may take the opportunity to devour its people all in the name of safety. The problem is that America is now a pagan nation, and pagans have never been known for their intelligence, only for their superstition. Pagans are renowned for suicidal fanaticism for their beliefs. They are also well-known for human sacrifice, even their own children. Pagans will accept any god except Jehovah, the true God. The greatest danger to humanity is that the superstitions that have arisen around the Mayan calendar will lead to the blind acceptance of a one-world system. As we have demonstrated, a one-world system cannot be sustained and will most assuredly collapse upon itself.<sup>8</sup> So don’t pay any attention to Chicken Little and become like Turkey Lurky and fall victim to Foxy Loxy. Remember, there is a God in heaven and we have his word in earth. It is sad that so many people, even Christians, pay more atten-

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<sup>7</sup> Reprinted from Bouw, G.D., 1997. “Editorial,” *B.A.*, 7(80):3.

<sup>8</sup> Bouw, G.D., 2000. “Entropy and the New World Order,” *B.A.*, 10(93):5.

tion to the alarms of Chicken Little than to the prophecies of Scripture. The Bible's prophecies name people centuries before they are born and tell of future events long before they are fulfilled. No other book does that. Yet most people prefer to follow a prophet with a batting average of zero than a Bible with a batting average of 1,000!

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### **THE MOTIVATION OF SOCIALISM**

An economics professor at a local college made a statement that he had never failed a single student before, but had once failed an entire class.

That class had insisted that Obama's socialism worked and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich, a great equalizer.

The professor then said, "OK, we will have an experiment in this class on Obama's plan."

All grades would be averaged and everyone would receive the same grade so no one would fail and no one would receive an A.

After the first test, the grades were averaged and everyone got a B. The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy.

As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too so they studied little. The second test average was a D! No one was happy.

When the third test rolled around, the average was an F.

The scores never increased as bickering, blame, and name-calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else.

All failed, to their great surprise, and the professor told them that socialism would also ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great but when government takes all the reward away, no one will try or want to succeed.

## READERS' FORUM

In the last issue, in the "Editorial," I printed an erratum about a quote printed in the Spring 2002 issue of the *Biblical Astronomer*. The quote was attributed to Dr. James R. Paulson, Prof. of Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. The quote was: "The evidence for heliocentrism is even weaker than the evidence for evolution." Dr. Paulson said it was removed from its context.

After the issue was sent, I received an email from Teno Groppi:

I was the source of the quote by Professor Jim Paulson in 2002. He was not defending geocentrism, but his quote was an admission of the lack of actual evidence for heliocentrism. What I did quote was not altered one whit.

I thought his comment was originally in a letter to the editor, but I couldn't find it in my collection. So it must be in one of our personal correspondences, which will take some time to dig up, but I will look during the holidays if you need it.

I replied as follows:

Thank you, Teno; that would be the coup de grâce if you could find it. Paulson's objection [which I quoted in *B.A.* 129-130] was originally sent to Gordon Bane, as I recall. Because Gordon had posted it on his site, I thought it had nothing to do with me and I lost the printout for a couple of years in a stack of papers (not that rare an occurrence, I admit; I once found a 5-year old check used as a bookmark).

Teno did search through his papers and eventually found four copies of his exchange with Prof. Paulson. Before presenting that exchange, the reader may be interested in this status report that was sent to me before the discovery of the exchange papers:

[Paulson] was mocking creation by making that comparison [that the evidence for evolution is greater than the evidence for heliocentrism], yet his comparison was an unwitting admission that heliocentrism has even less evidence than evolution. Of course, he thinks evolution has lots of evidence, but when debating Kent Hovind he was unable to give any. The best he had to offer was gray birds coming from back & white birds, and DNA similarities between peas and humans. So if heliocentrism has even less evidence than that, it is truly bereft of evidence.

Teno had a brief email exchange with Paulson in 2002 and was able to retrieve the original email exchange. In the following exchange of emails, each email is tagged by the name of the sender:

**Teno:**

I don't have his original question, which was what I quoted (and the words I was searching for, which was why I couldn't find it), but I do have four copies of our replies to it dating from 4-2-02 to 4-18-02. The truth is even better; Paulson goes as far as to admit the Bible "very clearly" assumes a geocentric view. He never did respond to my last question. He went on to talk about common ancestry being a testable hypothesis in his next reply. And I think he confused "heliocentric theory" and geocentricity in his last sentence.

**Paulson:**

By the way, you didn't answer my question about the **earth revolving about the sun**. Have you ever observed THAT? If not, maybe you should reject it along with evolution, since **the evidence for evolution is stronger**. [Emphasis added by Teno.]

**Teno:**

Maybe you're right.

**Paulson:**

JP: I assume that you DO reject it, since you believe that the Bible is literally true, and **it very clearly assumes cosmology that is inconsistent with modern astronomy**. Not only that, you believe that by winning debates and offering monetary rewards for proving evolution (which are never claimed), creationists "prove" that evolution is wrong. A hundred years ago, there were several creationists who did the same thing -- but in their case, they "proved" that the earth is flat and that the sun goes around it. If you DON'T reject the heliocentric theory, what is your evidence for it?

**Teno:**

Are you saying there is inadequate evidence for it?

Lastly, Teno found the original of the quote he was searching for. It was dated March 26, 2002, which means it was sent to Teno before

any of the emails we've quoted heretofore. It was the email that contained the question Teno had not answered in the first of Paulson's emails printed above, the one that starts with: "By the way, you didn't answer my question about the earth revolving about the sun..."

You and your fellow creationists may constantly repeat your mantra, "there is no evidence for evolution", but the evidence is there, and **it is even stronger than the evidence that the earth revolves around the sun** (have you ever observed THAT?) or that everything is made of atoms. Before repeating your mantra again, you should come up to the university and I'll SHOW you some evidence. [Bold emphasis added.]

So we see that Dr. Paulson did say that what we printed in 2002, that "The evidence for heliocentrism is even weaker than the evidence for evolution." Although what we printed was not a direct quote, it did correctly communicate the spirit and sense of Paulson's direct quote, "[T]he evidence [for evolution] is there, and it is even stronger than the evidence that the earth revolves around the sun."

### **Geocentricity Is a Stumbling Block**

Does this website just discuss the history of geocentricity or does it actually advocate that theory? Some articles seem to hint that there are Christians who still believe this. Can that be? Please say no... well, I found that there are still Christians who believe in a flat earth as well, so I wouldn't be too surprised.

Unfortunately, this can be an effective stumbling block for some who would otherwise embrace Christianity. I can see them saying "If Christians believe in a flat earth, or geocentricity... well, I can pretty much punt the rest of their beliefs as well." Fortunately, most see this as "backwoods fundamentalists tilting at windmills." But it still does damage to the cause because it's not true, and Christianity is all about the Truth.

It's hard enough defending the historicity of Christ and fighting the relatively easy fight against natural causation. Why defend a very fantastic notion based on a very contrived Biblical interpretation? It seems that some would have the Biblical writers insert astrophysical footnotes in the scriptures because we future folks aren't apparently smart enough to understand context and perspective! Please! There is no more Biblical support for geocentricity than for a flat earth... but for some it must be the pivotal issue upon which the truth of Christ's Kingdom stands. Once we've convinced everyone that our flat Earth is

at the center of the universe, then we can move along to lesser issues like where they are going to spend eternity. [All sic.]

—Jeff

We advocate the geocentric model on [geocentricity.com](http://geocentricity.com). We do so because the mobility of the earth was the first controversy on which the Church surrendered the authority of Scripture to secular science. We also think that the resurrection would be a greater stumbling block than geocentricity because geocentricity is alright to support in “accredited” scientific circles as long as you call it “Mach’s Principle.” No scientist or science, like biology, has a similar code word for writing about human resurrection from the dead.

Besides, who are we to decide what is a stumbling block and what is not. Did God himself not put a stumbling block for the Jews in Isaiah 8:14,<sup>1</sup> which is quoted in I Peter 2:8,<sup>2</sup> Jesus is there called a “stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.” Likewise, the crucifixion is an offence, as Paul writes in Galatians 5:11.<sup>3</sup> Is truth so unpalatable to us that we feel the need to sugar coat it with secular humanism to make it palatable to the unregenerate? These things are spiritually perceived. Geocentricity is not an offence to spiritual eyes, but it is to the natural man, who, Scripture says, cannot please God.<sup>4</sup>

The web site and ministry is for those of scientific bent who desire to receive the love of the truth (II Thessalonians 2:10).<sup>5</sup> We fail to see how truth can keep one out of heaven but, then, you do not believe it is the truth; for your final authority on this matter is what man says, and not what God says.

May I suggest you actually read some of the material instead of blindly taking your teachers’ word for it? Or are you afraid that we might be right and you will have to appear foolish to men to please God?<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 8:14—And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> I Peter 2:8—And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

<sup>3</sup> Galatians 5:11—And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

<sup>4</sup> I Corinthians 2:14—But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

<sup>5</sup> II Thessalonians 2:10—And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

<sup>6</sup> I Corinthians 1:27—But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

# PANORAMA

## Apophis Update

In connection with the asteroid called Wormwood mentioned in Revelation 8:11, we mentioned earth-grazing asteroids, in particular, an asteroid named Apophis. At that time the odds of a collision with earth in 2036 was one chance in 220,000.<sup>1</sup>

The 1,050-foot (320-meter) diameter asteroid was first discovered in 2004 and made headlines when Apollo astronaut Rusty Schweickart called on the government to confirm his calculations that there was a remote chance it could strike the Pacific Ocean in 2036. Such an impact could create a wave 30-40 feet (10-12 meters) high, comparable to the wave heights at Banda Aceh, Indonesia, during the 2004 tsunami.<sup>2</sup> Schweickart's computed probability for a collision was one chance in 45,000. Additional data collated by Steve Chesley and Paul Chodas at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, extends the odds to one chance in 250,000, slightly less than the odds we reported in 2007.

## Dark Energy and Geocentricity

The concept of dark energy was created by cosmologists to adjust Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity to reality after modern telescopes discovered that the universe was not behaving as the general theory predicted. According to Einstein's theory, the speed at which the universe expands after the Big Bang should be slower than we actually see happening in Type I supernovae (extremely violent exploding stars that can temporarily become as bright as billions of suns). The inability of general relativity to explain the observations threatened to turn the whole theory upside down. In order to save the general theory, the concept of dark energy was invented.

In August of 2009, however, Blake Temple and Joel Smoller, mathematicians at the University of California and the University of Michigan respectively, believed they came up with a new mathematical model that does not need the controversial substance.

The standard model of cosmology, which describes the origin and aging of the universe, begins with the Big Bang. Over the last decade, astronomers have noticed that the galaxies are accelerating as they move away from each other. Cosmologists have sought to explain this

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<sup>1</sup> Bouw, G. D., 2007. "Wormwood," *B.A.* 17(119):20.

<sup>2</sup> *Aerospace Daily*, May 23, 2005.

unexpected acceleration by introducing the concept of dark energy, which, it is believed, permeates all space, repels matter, and accounts for nearly 75 percent of the mass of the universe.

The new research, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, will be most controversial as it requires our galaxy, the Milky Way, to be at the center of the universe—a possibility that has been discounted by modern science. Dr. Malcom Fairbairn, particle cosmologist at King's College London, said: "Ever since the concept of dark energy was first mentioned people have been trying to explain it or explain it away. It is a mystery and an inconvenience.

"This is one attempt at it. Whether it is right only time will tell."<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, once again geocentricity solves a cosmological mystery.

### Flyby Mystery Deepens

About a year ago, we wrote a Panorama note mentioning strange and unexpected behavior of satellites flying past the earth.<sup>4</sup> It was reported that five different spacecrafts flying past the earth gained more speed than expected. The extra speed was not great, about 1/260<sup>th</sup> inch per second (0.1 mm/sec). Now the flyby anomaly has gotten stranger.

Since the early 1990s scientists and mission controllers have noticed that some spacecraft experience unexpected changes in speed during earth-flybys. The unexplained variation is extremely small and has occurred as either speed gained or lost, but this variant is not predicted by fundamental physics. The anomaly doesn't happen to every spacecraft, but scientists were hoping to gain more insight into the anomaly when the Rosetta spacecraft swung by Earth on November 13, 2009, to pick up a gravitational boost for its journey to rendezvous with a comet in 2014. However, in a major disappointment—which had deepened the mystery—the Rosetta spacecraft did not experience the flyby anomaly during this swing by of earth, even though the same spacecraft did experience the anomaly when it flew by earth in 2005, but didn't in 2007.

"It's a mystery as to what is happening with these gravity events,"<sup>5</sup> said Trevor Morley, lead flight dynamics specialist working on Rosetta. "Some studies have looked for answers in new interpreta-

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<sup>3</sup> Alleyne, Richard, 2009. "Dark Energy May not Actually Exist," <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/6043414/Dark-energy-may-not-actually-exist-scientists-claim.html>, August 18 press release.

<sup>4</sup> Panorama, 2009. "The More We Learn, the Less We Know About Gravity," *B.A.*, **19**(128):45.

<sup>5</sup> Atkinson, Nancy, 2009. <http://spacefellowship.com/news/art16198/mystery-of-the-flyby-anomaly-endures.html>

tions of current physics. If this proves correct, it would be absolutely ground-breaking news.”

For the earth-flybys where the anomaly has been detected, Morley said the main manifestation has been “the inability to get anything like a reasonable fit of an orbit to an arc of radiometric data that encompasses both the pre- and post-perigee (closest to the Earth) intervals.” For those cases when an anomaly has been seen, the change has been very slight, but noticeable. “In every case, a reasonable data fit could be established only by inserting an artificial velocity change along the direction of the orbital velocity in the vicinity of perigee,” Morley concluded.

For this fly-by, the team made allowances for the software to estimate an impulsive maneuver at perigee, aligned along the orbital velocity. But after analyzing the radiometric data gathered by ESA and NASA ground stations, nothing anomalous was seen.

“The difference in the quality of the data fit was absolutely negligible,” Morley said. “For Rosetta’s third and final earth swingby, there was no anomaly.”

Several ideas have been tossed around in an attempt to explain why the anomaly occurs, but no one has been able to pin the cause down as of yet. Ideas range from tidal effects of the near-earth environment, atmospheric drag, or the pressure of radiation emitted or reflected by the earth, to much more extreme possibilities, such as dark matter, dark energy or previously unseen variations in General Relativity.

One research team, led by ex-NASA scientist John Anderson, is even looking at the possibility that earth’s rotation may be distorting space-time—the fundamental fabric of our universe—more than expected, and affecting nearby spacecraft. But there is no explanation yet for how this could happen. Plus no one can explain why some flybys experience the anomaly and others don’t.

## **Observing the Lord’s Supper on the Moon**

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed out of the lunar module *Eagle* and took their historic first steps on the moon. Several months later Buzz Aldrin told *Guideposts Magazine* about another “first” that also took place that day.

Before the flight to the moon, Buzz Aldrin had a desire to honor the Lord’s presence in the Apollo 11 space mission. He talked about this with his pastor, Dean Woodruff, of Webster Presbyterian Church in Houston. The two men decided that communion—the observance of

Jesus' sacrifice and substitutionary death on the cross—would make a fitting observance.

Two Sundays before the moon shot, Aldrin participated in a small, private communion service at Webster Presbyterian, after which Dean Woodruff broke off a corner of the communion bread and gave it to Aldrin along with a tiny cup and some wine. Aldrin sealed these in plastic packets and safely stowed them in his personal preference kit (each astronaut was allowed to take a few personal items with him).

July 20, 1969, was a Sunday. At 3:17 p.m. (Houston time) the *Eagle* touched down. Aldrin took out the communion elements from his flight packet and put them on a small table in front of the abort guidance-system computer. Then he called Houston and asked for a few moments of silence.

In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, he poured the wine, watching it curl gracefully up the side of the cup. From a slip of paper Aldrin read John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Then he took communion.

### **The Pioneer Anomaly and the Machian Universe**

In the past we have mentioned that the Pioneer spacecraft, as well as the Voyager spacecrafts, appear to be decelerating, that is to say, slowing down in their path out of the Solar System.<sup>6</sup> The most consistent explanation for the anomalous deceleration is that the two spacecraft may slowly be leaking propellant. But in 2007, another possible explanation for the pioneers' deceleration was proposed.

In a paper entitled "The Pioneer Anomaly and the Machian Universe," Marcelo Samuel Berman reported that "astronomical and astrophysical evidence, which we relate to the principle of zero-total energy of the universe, that imply several relations among the mass  $M$ , the radius  $R$  and the angular momentum  $L$  of a 'large' sphere representing a Machian Universe. By calculating the angular speed, we find a peculiar centripetal acceleration for the Universe. This ubiquitous property relates one observer to any observable. It turns out that this is exactly the anomalous acceleration observed on the Pioneers spaceships. This anomaly, Berman concludes, is to be considered a property of the Machian Universe."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Panorama, 2000. "Pioneer 10 and 11's Deceleration," *B.A.*, **10**(93):34; Panorama, 2000. "More Material Relating to Pioneer 10 and Quasar," *B.A.*, **10**(94):40; Panorama, 2002. "Pioneer Puzzle Persists," *B.A.*, **12**(100):72.

<sup>7</sup> Berman, Marcelo S., 2007. "The Pioneer Anomaly and the Machian Universe," *Astrophys. Space Science*, **312**:275.

As long-time readers of the *Astronomer* know, Mach's Principle is the politically correct way of saying "Geocentricity" among physicists who care not to let laymen in on the geocentric evidences found in the universe. Now the rotation of the universe that Berman mentions in his paper is not the daily rotation of the firmament but a much slower rotation of the universe, with a period of tens of billions of years. The deceleration of the Pioneer spacecraft may thus be claimed evidence for a rotating universe (rotating with respect to the firmament or inside the firmament) but is indirect confirmation of the daily rotation of the universe.

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## **HEADLINE BLOOPERS**

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Enfield Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

## CREDO

The Biblical Astronomer was founded in 1971 as the Tyconian Society. It is based on the premise that the only absolutely trustworthy information about the origin and purpose of all that exists and happens is given by God, our Creator and Redeemer, in his infallible, preserved word, the Holy Bible commonly called the King James Bible. Any scientific endeavor which does not accept this revelation from on high without any reservations, literary, philosophical or whatever, we reject as already condemned in its unfounded first assumptions.

We believe that the creation was completed in six twenty-four hour days and that the world is not older than about six thousand years. We maintain that the Bible teaches us of an earth that neither rotates daily nor revolves yearly about the sun; that it is at rest with respect to the throne of him who called it into existence; and that hence it is absolutely at rest in the universe.

We affirm that no man is righteous and so all are in need of salvation, which is the free gift of God, given by the grace of God, and not to be obtained through any merit or works of our own. We affirm that salvation is available only through faith in the shed blood and finished work of our risen LORD and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Lastly, the reason why we deem a return to a geocentric astronomy a first apologetic necessity is that its rejection at the beginning of our Modern Age constitutes one very important, if not the most important, cause of the historical development of Bible criticism, now resulting in an increasingly anti-Christian world in which atheistic existentialism preaches a life that is really meaningless.

**If you agree with the above, please consider becoming a member. Membership dues are \$30 per year. Members receive free shipping on all items offered for sale by the *Biblical Astronomer*.**

*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

– Isaiah 8:20

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\*\*\*\* NOTE NEW PRODUCTS \*\*\*\*

### BOOKS AND DVDs

*The Bible and Geocentricity*, by Prof. James N. Hanson. A collection of articles, most of which made up the “Bible and Geocentricity” column in the early 1990s. Prof. Hanson has added numerous illustrations. (145 pages, 5.5x8.5 format) \$10

*The Book of Bible Problems* by G. Bouw. The most difficult “contradictions” in the Bible are answered without compromise. “A classic,” writes Gail Riplinger. 266 pages, indexed. \$15 (price will go up to \$20 soon)

*Geocentricity DVD*. Martin Selbrede gives a first-rate presentation of geocentricity. \$15

*Where in the Universe Are We?* DVD by Philip Stott. We carried Stott’s videos until they were no longer produced. Recently they have been remastered for DVD. This DVD deals with geocentricity. \$25

*Problems in Astronomy*, DVD by Philip Stott. Remastered for DVD, this program is more creationist-oriented than dealing with the geocentric universe, although the topic is covered positively. \$25

*Geocentricity, Relativity and the Big Bang*, Book by long-time creationist Russell T. Arndts. Although we do not support the author’s endorsement of the NIV, the book is worth the price for its discussion of Relativity and geocentricity. (248 pages) \$15

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PayPal honors credit card orders on the web site

(Product list continued on the inside front cover.)