

READERS' FORUM

The following letter arrived in response to the mass-mailing of roughly 50,000 copies of the combined book, *A Geocentricity Primer* and *Geocentric Bible #3*. It came from Rev. Dr. Lee Wallace of the First Church of God, Knoxville, Tennessee.

I am returning your book *A Geocentricity Primer* which was sent to me unsolicited. In all due respects, Sir, your book is a chimera.¹ I have never read anything so preposterous; I am flabbergasted that an intelligent and educated man, such as yourself, could write and believe what you have written. I have been a serious student of the Bible and astronomy for many, many years and I have never read nor studied anything that would contradict a heliocentric solar system. Unfortunately such ludicrous *scientific* writings bring calumny² upon legitimate Christian scholars and authors. [All sic. Footnotes are from the editor.]

Dr. Wallace has nothing to offer in rebuttal except to call the book slanderous (calumny) and a Frankensteinian monstrosity (chimera). In other words, his only recourse is to name-calling, with an appeal to "legitimate Christian scholars and authors." Each of us considers any author who writes what we can agree with a "legitimate Christian scholars and author," so that charge depends on the opinion of the protagonist, the person making the charge. The reader will note that there is no appeal to Scripture.

The moon and the calendar

This, entitled "A Gut Chodesh!" was received from Amnon Goldberg: of Israel:

"Rosh Chodesh: a Yom Tov - but Why?" (26 Adar II) reminded one of how only the masterful intercalary Jewish calendar has managed to reconcile so well for so long the three distinct geocentric motions of the solar (the year), lunar (the month) and diurnal (day) periods: "to be for seasons, and for days and years" (Genesis 1). "For this is your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the nations (Devarim 4) - this refers to the calculations of astronomy and calendars" (Shabbos 75).

¹ Chimera: A fire-breathing she-monster usually represented as a composite of a lion, goat, and serpent. An imaginary monster made up of grotesquely disparate parts.

² Calumny: A false statement maliciously made to injure another's reputation.

How unlike the calendars of the nations. The Christian world has its years correctly calculated, but not the months. The 365 days of the year are arbitrarily divided into twelve months, which themselves have no relation to the orbit of the moon.

The Moslems have correct months, but incorrect years. They simply make the twelve lunar months into a year of 354 days, which is eleven short! The result is that their festivals are not bound to the seasons of the year, and keep shifting, now to the spring, now to the winter, and then to the summer: Not exactly conducive to *menuchas hanefesh* (calmness of spirit). Some hold this as being partly responsible for the volatility of the Muslim character!

At the time of the bloody schism of the Julian-Gregorian calendrical reform, when it was suggested to Pope Gregory (1582) that it might be easier to adopt the Jewish calendar, he exclaimed: "'tis better to be wrong with the calendar than right with the Jews!"

The Moon's motions are so complex that Sir Isaac Newton was almost driven to a nervous breakdown attempting to resolve them: "The Sun knows his own course, but the Moon does not know hers...the lunar month can never be less than 29 and a half days, two-thirds of an hour and 73 *chalokim* (parts) (*Rosh Hashonoh* 25) i.e. 29.53059 days. This figure is to within a thousandth of a second of the length of a synodic month (the time between one new moon and the next) given by NASA and the US Naval Observatory! Only a G-d-given *mesorah* (tradition) can explain how Chazal arrived at their figures.

Eclipses only occur because of the fantastically exact Sun-Earth/Moon-Earth size-distance ratio, which is unique in the universe and hints of the primordial days of Creation, before the Moon's diminution and bespeaks of Geocentricity and of the Earth's special location in the cosmos. The halting of the Moon at Yehoshua's command, "the precious things put forth by the Moon" (*Devorim* 33:14), ocean tides, weather forecasting, eclipses, lunar phases, nutation, libration, the Jewish calendar, gyroscopy, satellite and space-shot calculations etc. are best understood in a Geocentric context: "The Earth is suspended at the center of the Universe" (Rambam, *Hilchos Yesodei Hatorah* [Laws of Foundations of the Torah] 3). See *At the Center of the Universe*, Rabbi Mordechai Plaut, and *Geocentricity*, Dr. Gerardus Bouw.

Dr. Hugo Mandelbaum ("The Problem of Molad Tohu ["Molad Tohu" = "Birth out of Chaos," referring to the initial solar eclipse that occurred on the fourth day of the Creation, at the moment of the simultaneous "birth" of the greater luminary and the lesser luminary]", in *The Proceedings of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists* 1976), showed that a true repeating lunar-solar cycle occurs only every 689,272 years, and that an absolute

reconciliation of the lunar calendar with the solar year is an impossibility. After 1600 years of use, discrepancies in Hillel II's calendar are now starting to be noticed, but the Chofetz Chaim wrote in 1903 that "we need not be overly concerned much beyond the next century because certainly at that time there will be the Geulah (Redemption) and we will sanctify the New Moon by visual observation!"

Until then we do not have the authority to alter the calendar until a new Sanhedrin is reestablished. In Eretz Yisroel (the land of Israel) the "New Moon Society" and the "Institute for Kiddush Hachodesh (Sanctifying the Month) Studies" practice observing and determining criteria for the limits of visibility of the New Moon in order to be ready for when the Sanhedrin is restored in Messianic Times to come, when "the light of the Moon will be as the light of the Sun!" (Isaiah 30:26.)

Yours truly,
Amnon Goldberg

More on $E=mc^2$

The *Biblical Astronomer* (and other sources, e.g., Alfred O'Rahilly, etc.) have stated that the famous $E=mc^2$ equation antedates Einstein. The formula is reportedly found in papers by Maxwell and Heavyside. Of course, mentioning this inconvenient fact draws down the wrath of the pro-Einstein crows, who dispute its truthfulness and/or relevance. Interestingly, another precursor to Einstein is mentioned in passing in a most interesting place.

The Fourth Edition of Halliday & Resnick's well-known undergraduate physics textbook, *Fundamentals of Physics*, reports that J. J. Thompson preceded Einstein. Exercise 54E on page 735 reads as follows: "A decade before Einstein published his theory of relativity, J. J. Thompson proposed that the electron might be made up of small parts and that its mass is due to the electrical interaction of the parts. Furthermore, he suggested that the energy equals mc^2 ."

Einsteinaiacs belittle all predecessors to their secular saint (e.g., those who discovered $E=mc^2$ prior to Einstein, or those like Poincaré who anticipated relativity theory ahead of Einstein). How, then, did this "heretical" concession creep into a mainstream physics textbook? And how long will it take before it is purged? Only time will tell. World-famous atheist philosopher Antony Flew recently recanted his atheism on scientific grounds, appealing to the Socratic edict to "follow the evidence, wherever it leads." Let's hope such bursts of illumination don't remain as rare as they evidently have been.

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