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**THE  
BIBLICAL  
ASTRONOMER**

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**WINTER 2007**



## RENEWED ITEMS

(Continued from the back cover)

**The following two items have not been available for some time and are now available again.**

*Vital Questions* by Philip Stott. (Second edition) Tackles just how flimsy the evidence is for such well-established ideas as the Big Bang, Relativity, and evolution. 155 pages. \$20

*Where in the Universe Are We?* by Philip Stott. **DVD video.** We sold this same video in VHS format some years back, but now reissued in DVD format. \$25

*Problems in Astronomy* by Philip Stott. VHS video \$15

Foreign orders, please read pricing policies  
on the back cover of this issue.

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*Editor:* Gerardus D. Bouw, Ph.D.  
4527 Wetzel Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
U.S.A.

E-mail address: [bibastron@yahoo.com](mailto:bibastron@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.geocentricity.com/>

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**Front Cover:** Artist Don Davis created this impression of an asteroid hitting the earth near a coastline for NASA. The asteroid depicted in this figure is hundreds of times the size of Apophis, the asteroid what will make two close approaches to earth in the next 30 years. See "Wormwood" in this issue for more information. (Courtesy: NASA.)

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# THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ABSOLUTES

**Houston, Texas  
16-18 July 2007**

The Third International Conference on Absolutes will be held from Monday, 16 July through Wednesday, 18 July at The Woodlands, Texas. For interested parties, a tour of NASA's Houston facilities will be available for an extra cost. Below is information about the conference.

## The Venue



The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn (pictured above). A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees. The cost is roughly \$140 per day. If you intend to stay at the conference site, please advise the hotel that you are attending the Conference on Absolutes. The hotel is about 15 miles north of Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport in the beautiful Woodlands area. Other hotels, both cheaper and more expensive, are available in the area, some within easy walking distance of the conference site. Interested readers can see a map of the area with nearby hotels by visiting the Conference's World Wide Web site at [www.geocentricity.com/conference](http://www.geocentricity.com/conference). Prices are also available there.

**Costs**

The registration fee is \$100 per person. After the conference, the organizers will compare the fees with expenses and refund any excess portion paid.

The cost of admission to NASA for the group will be \$12 per person. We plan to rent a bus to take us down to the Houston Space Center, so the cost of the rental will be added to that amount. The total cost for the tour has yet to be determined.

**Registration**

To register for the conference by mail, please send your name, address, email address (if any), and an indication that you are interested in the NASA tour with a check made payable to ABA and send it to:

Third Conference on Absolutes  
4527 Wetzel Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Sorry, we cannot take credit cards at the mailing address. Those who prefer to pay by credit card can do so using PayPal by going to the Conference's web site and clicking on the link provided. Please be advised that there will be a 5% non-refundable surcharge on credit card payments.

**Speakers**

As of 24 February our list of speakers include:

Gerardus Bouw, Ph.D.  
James Hanson, M.S.  
Brian Lamb, MCPP  
David Lifschultz  
Martin Selbrede  
Thomas Strouse, Ph.D., TH.D.  
Frank Wolff, Ph.D.

**Questions?**

By email: [bibastron@yahoo.com](mailto:bibastron@yahoo.com)

By postal service, please use the above registration address.

## READERS' FORUM

### Of Geocentrism and Stem Cells

Robert J. Bennett, Ph.D., coauthor of the book and CD, *Galileo Was Wrong*,<sup>1</sup> made the following observation: “We are asked, ‘Why does *Galileo was Wrong* bother with a triviality like geocentrism, which has neither moral significance nor any relevance to the modern world?’ Here’s one reason why....”

The Senate opened debate on embryonic stem cell research on Monday with a ferocious battle between those who want to spend federal taxpayer funds on embryonic stem cell research and those who say adult stem cell research provides more hope for patients suffering from a wide range of diseases. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who brokered the agreement that led to today’s debate and tomorrow’s vote, said he supports a bill to overturn President Bush’s limits on tax funds for embryonic research.

“I feel that the limit on cell lines available for federally funded research is too restrictive,” Frist said. Sen. Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, also led off the debate Monday by attacking pro-life advocates who say embryonic stem cell research is morally wrong because it entails the destruction of human life.

Specter likened pro-life advocates and opponents of the funding bill to science skeptics of centuries past that denied the Earth revolved around the Sun or thought electricity wouldn’t have much promise for mankind. He did that “to show how attitudes at different times in retrospect look foolish, look absolutely ridiculous.” But pro-life lawmakers who oppose the funding bill said adult stem cell research science is showing plenty of results and human embryos don’t need to be destroyed—especially since it has yet to cure a single patient.<sup>2</sup>

### Is the Universe Expanding Today?

Dear Dr. Bouw,

I hear some people say that the universe is still expanding. Is this true? Since God finished the creation on the seventh day, how then is it

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<sup>1</sup> Sungenis, R. A., & R. J. Bennett, 2006. *Galileo was Wrong, Vol. 1: The Scientific Evidence*, (Catholic Apologetics International Publishing: [www.catholicintl.com](http://www.catholicintl.com)).

<sup>2</sup> “Senate Opens Fierce Debate on Embryonic Stem Cell Research Funding Bill Washington, DC.” [LifeNews.com](http://LifeNews.com).

possible for the universe to continue to expand? And what are the basic assumptions of an expanding universe? Please help.

Thank you and God bless!

Yours in Christ,  
Timothy.

Dear Timothy,

The Bible speaks of the stretching of the heavens. Sometimes it speaks in the past tense (giving support for an inflationary period during the creation week, when stars would age very quickly and radioactive particles would decay rapidly). Other times it is in the present tense, suggesting that the heavens are still stretching, though possibly not as fast as before. The Bible likens the heaven to a curtain, implying a fixed amount of material that is now being unfurled.

The modern expanding universe is based on light emanating from similar galaxies. When galaxies are fainter and smaller, their light is Doppler shifted into the red, meaning they look like they are moving away from us. The "further" out we look, the faster they are moving, just as the pleats of a curtain unfurl faster at the leading edge of a curtain and slower at the trailing edge. The expansion would be into the third heaven.

Yours in Christ,  
Dr. Bouw

### **The Geocentric Murderer**

The following is an exchange of emails in which your editor was not in the least involved. It starts with an email sent on 4 September 2006 from Michael Thayer of North Carolina to Creationist astronomer Dr. Danny Faulkner. Mr. Thayer wrote to express his opinion of Dr. Faulkner's attack on geocentricity published in the *Ex Nihilo Technical Journal* in 2001.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Thayer's original email went as follows:

I am amazed how you accept the literal interpretation of Noah's Ark, 6 literal days, etc....but scoff at Geocentric notions and swallow Einsteinian propaganda whole. I read your "refutation" of Dr. Bouw and also read his answers to you and found you wanting.

You are spinning around downstream on creation/evolution if you simply swallow heliocentrism.

Have you seen this recent work?

<http://www.galileowaswrong.com/>

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<sup>3</sup> Faulkner, D., 2001. "Geocentrism and Creation," *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, **15**(2):110-121. Pg. 110.



Dr. Faulkner's response:

And you believe that murderer, Gerry Bouw?

Danny R. Faulkner  
a stellar astronomer

Mr. Thayer was understandably puzzled by the response and forwarded the above messages to Dr. Robert Sungenis (of the aforementioned web site). In his forward, Mr. Thayer asked:

Faulkner calls Bouw a "murderer." Do you know what this is about?

Michael Thayer

Dr. Sungenis, in turn, emailed your editor with a copy of the exchange thus far, asking:

Gerry,

Below, Danny Faulkner is answering an email from a Michael Thayer in which Thayer criticizes Faulkner's reticence to accept geocentrism.

Faulkner returns the favor by calling you a murderer. Is this guy insane or does it just appear that way?

Robert Sungenis

I asked Mr. Thayer to pursue the matter further with Dr. Faulkner, and he did so. Mr. Thayer wrote back:

Dr. Bouw,

I clarified this with him... he used it "tongue and cheek" because you say that Tyco was "murdered" by Kepler...I told him you did not state that unequivocally but point to evidence, circumstances, etc. That is why he used it.

However, as someone just asking him a question, this is quite irresponsible...saying, "why would you listen to that 'murderer' Gerry Bouw..."

The guy suffers from a bad case of ego casualty combined with scientism...quite a deadly combination.

Sincerely,  
Michael Thayer

In presenting my reply to Michael Thayer below, I have elaborated on my actual response, clarifying some things and explaining others:

Thank you. Dr. Faulkner and I have butted heads before on the matter of Tycho's murder by Kepler. Faulkner is convinced that Kepler was a born-again believer of Scripture. I disagree, first because there is no clear statement by Kepler mentioning his rebirth and second because it is clear from Kepler's writings that he is a believer in the "Book of Nature" infinitely more than Scripture. ...

Faulkner maintains his stance because a man he greatly respects wrote a book claiming Kepler was a Christian. ...

I agree, it is irresponsible to give such a flippant answer, especially in an email without emoticons.

G. Bouw

I now elaborate on the ellipses in the above email.

Kepler was a staunch Lutheran even after he was excommunicated from the Lutheran church for what it considered was too much Calvinism, dabbling in the occult arts, and a heretical view of the nature of the bread and cup in the Lord's supper. Kepler's view was halfway between transubstantiation and the Lutheran Consubstantiation. He persisted in his Lutheranism even with the Counter Reformation on his doorstep. He refused to convert to Catholicism. Kepler's persistence may be mistaken by some for evidence of a rebirth, but if that were the case, then every Moslem suicide bomber can be said to be reborn. It can also be a case of deceit.

About my claim that Kepler murdered Tycho, it stems from comments I made in *Geocentricity* back in 1992. I noted that Kepler's attitude prompted Marshall Hall to suspect Kepler of murdering Tycho for his data. That is the comment that sparked Faulkner's accusation. However, a few years later, a forensic team at the University of Upsala, Sweden, first raised the question of Tycho's murder when they found evidence for a lethal dose of arsenic in Tycho's hair. The evidence against Kepler can only be circumstantial, but subsequent examination of Tycho's hair built such a strong case for poisoning that in 2004, the Guilders, an investigative couple, summarized it and indicted Kepler in their book, *Heavenly Intrigue*. And so it came to pass that yours truly was accused of murder.

## More on the Gap Theory

Dear Bro. Gerry,

I would like to quote Dr. Peter Ruckman regarding his view on Genesis Chapter 1:1:

The last thing to notice about this opening verse in the Bible is that **THE DATE OF CREATION IS NOT GIVEN** [emphasis in original]. Although a “recreation” is described in verses 2-20, no date is given for Genesis 1:1. We should notice this, as most college professors and high school teachers display their ignorance at this point. They assume that the Bible teaches that the earth is only 6,000 years old.... This is quite typical of Bible-rejecting education (Very seldom do critics of the Bible have even a handful of facts with which to work). The earth could have been here a good 4,000,000 years before God “recreated” it in seven evenings and mornings. Read the text more closely, it is much more “scientific than the superficial guesswork of Einstein, Darwin, Huxley, Milliken, or Bernard Ramm.”<sup>4</sup>

That is his general view of the creation accounts of Genesis Chapter one without clearly stating anywhere that he is in favor of the “gap theory.” For this style of commentary, what is your response?

Yours in Christian love,  
Bro. Erly Cemitará

Dear Bro. Erly,

How would I answer Ruckman? Here’s how.

True, there is no date other than the word “beginning,” which refers to an origin and thus means date zero, the start of the creation. The 6,000 years comes from Genesis 5 and subsequent genealogical and historic dates presented throughout the Bible. 6,000 years since Adam is a no-brainer.

In Exodus 20:11, God said that “...in six days God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.” Heaven is singular, as it is in Gen. 1:1, not plural, because the second heaven, the firmament, was not created until the second day. The “open firmament of the heaven” is the place where birds fly (Gen. 1:20) and is commonly called the first heaven because it is closest to the earth. The firmament is the place

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<sup>4</sup> Ruckman, Dr. Peter, 1969. *The Book of Genesis, The Bible Believer’s Commentary Series.*

wherein the sun, moon, and stars are located (Gen. 1:17). It is commonly called the second heaven.

Notice that God did not say which heaven he created first. It could be the first heaven, or it could be the third heaven. Since he did not say when the heaven and the earth were created, it could just as well have been 6,000 years ago, as the simple reading of genealogical and historical dates say have elapsed since the time Adam was created. At least that idea has Scriptural support, whereas there is none for a pre-Adamic world unless one ignores the context in which the proof texts therefore are taken.

Finally, how do you decide that when the Holy Ghost said God created the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day, that he really meant to say he unveiled them or removed a mystical cloud which had been hiding them the first three days? God MADE them the fourth day according to Gen. 1:16 and then set them in the firmament (v. 17). That is what the A.V. says; it says nothing about them being revealed. Remember, anytime a man tries to correct the English of the AV with the Greek or Hebrew, he's trying to pull a fast one. Just because some carnal Christian claims a pre-Adamic world because some fool of a scientist (Psa. 14:1) claims the earth is millions of years old because he wants to pull a political fast one,<sup>5</sup> that is no reason to abandon the plain text of the A.V. Holy Bible.

### **How Do You Do It?**

Rick Krach asked:

Please tell me one more thing. How in the world have you been able to spend so many years accepting and believing geocentricity to be a fact of life, because I know and understand that the "facts," the physics, and the mathematics work the same for both models; so, why do you personally choose the geocentric one over the heliocentric one? Also, why do you and such a relatively small number of scientists want to fight for geo.? I compare it to me wanting to fight to have our school globes turned around so that the South Pole is on the top. It is just a point of view.

My answer:

I am a geocentrist because the Scripture teaches it and allows no other point of view. Consider Joshua 10:13, for instance. The Scripture says:

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<sup>5</sup> Bouw, Gerardus D., 1998. "A Brief History of the Theory of Evolution," *B.A.*, 8(85):9.

And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

This is a key geocentric verse. If God here writes in the common vernacular, then it means that he goes along with the commonly accepted theory although he really doesn't believe it. God here says that "the sun stood still." He could just as well have said: "And the earth stopped her turning so that the sun seemed to stand still...." If God knew that the earth rotated and, as here and in Isa. 38:8, insists on saying that the sun stood still, or the "sun returned," then he is not telling the truth and he cannot say that his word is truth (John 17:17). That is why I am a geocentrist and why I persist in persisting in that point of view.

As for why we fight for geocentricity, well, that depends on the person. I can only speak for myself. It is on heliocentrism that modern Bible criticism rests. It is the one doctrine where almost all self-professing Bible-believers fail in their belief in the Holy Bible.

The first time I read the Bible from cover to cover and came upon Amos 8:11 which speaks of a famine "of hearing the words of the LORD" I asked the Lord, "How can this be? We have so many copies in print, and so many different versions, it seems impossible that they'd all disappear." Well, the Lord answered my question. In effect, it is the new versions that are the direct cause of the famine. But these versions could not exist to distract and confuse people except for the underlying assumption that God gave us the truth once, in the originals, but did not bother to preserve it or allow its words to be preserved or translated. Thus all around the world these days, people search for the words (not "Word" or "word") of God but cannot find it for the "originals" no longer exist. The theory that only the originals were inspired and that no translation can consist of the words of God is only about 150 years old. Before that time, there was no such confusion among believers.

How did this come about? Well, it was the fruit of the Copernican Revolution. That revolution taught believers that the Bible could not be trusted in the realm of science. Later, this idea extended to history and now, the Bible cannot be trusted at all, about anything. Believers may insist that it can be trusted about salvation, but to a sane mind it makes no sense that a book that is wrong about everything except, maybe, one thing, is authoritative. Certainly, it cannot be inspired by the God of Truth.

“Scholars” may say that they can come “close” to the “originals,” but I ask you, if no one has ever seen, let alone had, all the original autographs in one place and at one time, what makes anyone think he is pleasing God by trying to recover (the “originals”) that God did not think worthy of preservation in the first place? Either he preserved the words (Psalm 12:6-7 in AV), or it wasn't that important to him. The key difference is this: until 150 years ago believers believed that God's word was revealed from heaven and the words were given by inspiration and preserved by God himself. Today, believers think that the word of God was lost and must be recovered. That latter is the fruit of the Copernican Revolution, and as one with an earned Ph.D. in astronomy, I bear witness against them that the Copernican Revolution was based on a lie, and that modern astronomy knows it. That is why my life's verse is Ephesians 4:14-16.

### The Wager

The following exchange was communicated to me by a correspondent. I've reprinted it in full here.<sup>6</sup>

*In the summer of 1975, an encounter took place between Rabbi F.R., a Lubavitcher chassid, and Mr. A.P., a “modernized” American Jew. Rabbi R. was seeking to influence Mr. P. toward a greater commitment to Torah (the Pentateuch, Ed.) observance, which the latter dismissed as “archaic” and dismally outdated. In the course of the conversation, Mr. P. said, “Are you telling me that every law and practice mentioned in the Torah, written thousands of years ago, must be accepted at face value today?”*

*“Certainly,” replied Rabbi R. “The Torah is eternal, and is equally pertinent to every day and age.”*

*“The Torah states that the sun revolves around the earth,” countered Mr. P. “Do you believe that as well?”*

*“Yes, I do,” replied Rabbi R.*

*“Well, you might believe that,” said Mr. P., “but no rational, self-respecting inhabitant of the 20th century does. I'm sure your rebbe, Rabbi Schneerson, doesn't!”*

*“I'm sure he does,” said the rabbi.*

*“I'm willing to wager anything that he does not,” said Mr. P. “In fact, I'll say this: If the Rebbe states that he believes that the sun revolves around the earth, I will become a Torah-observant Jew and convince everyone I know to do the same!”*

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<sup>6</sup> Source: <http://www.chabad.org/therebbe/article.asp?print=true&aid=73253&iid=>

*“Would you put that in writing?” challenged Rabbi R.  
 “No problem,” said Mr. P.  
 Soon after, Rabbi R. received the following letter:*

Dear Rabbi R\_\_\_\_\_

As per our conversation of today,... I did say to you, and am submitting the same in writing by means of this letter, that if the Rebbe would make a public statement to the effect that... since the Talmud states that the sun revolves around the earth, it is therefore *his* firm belief that the sun does indeed revolve around the earth, that I will:

- (a) personally observe the laws of *taharat hamishpachah*, *tefillin* and Shabbat; and
- (b) influence my friends and colleagues to do the same.

It is, however, more than obvious to me that the Rebbe will not, in any way, make such a ridiculous statement, because

- (a) he does not wish to be labeled as a fool,
- (b) he himself is not as foolish as some of his ardent but hypnotized followers.

I predict, with no hesitation, that I will not hear any more about this matter from you or from the Rebbe...

I must tell you that I feel a deep personal hurt when people such as you make such asinine, ridiculous statements and then hide your abysmal ignorance behind the facade of “Torah.” Don’t you realize you can still be believers and not live 500 years behind the times?

*Mr. P. received not one but two separate letters in reply from the Rebbe, plus a third, cover letter, which read as follows:*

Greetings and blessings!

Your letter, addressed to Rabbi F\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_, reached me ... In view of its content, I naturally take this first opportunity of replying to it.

Not knowing whether you are more interested in the practical implication, or/and in the scientific aspect, I am writing two separate replies, enclosed herewith, which you can read in the order you prefer.

With esteem and blessing,  
 M. Schneerson

P.S. It is surely unnecessary to add-though I am adding it for the record-that I take for granted that you will keep your commitments with regard to the practical aspects of your letter.

*One letter read:*

... In reply to your question relating to the matter of the motion of the sun and the earth, whether the sun revolves around the earth or the earth around the sun. It is my firm belief that the sun revolves around the earth, as I have also declared publicly on various occasions and in discussion with professors specializing in this field of science.

In view of the above, I have no objection, of course, if you wish to make this view known to whomever you choose...

*The other letter read:*

... This is in reply to your inquiry on the question of the rotation of the sun and the earth in relation to each other, namely, whether the sun revolves around the earth, or the earth around the sun, and which view is to be accepted, etc.

I presume you have in mind the scientific view, i.e., what science has to say on this question, and I will address myself to this aspect.

It is well known that this was a controversial issue in ancient and medieval science. However, since about half a century ago, with the introduction of the theory of relativity, the latter has been *universally* accepted as the basis of modern science...

One of the conclusions of the theory of relativity is that when there are two systems, or planets, in motion relative to each other—such as the sun and the earth in our case—either view, namely the sun rotating around the earth, or the earth rotating around the sun, has equal validity. Thus, if there are phenomena that cannot be adequately explained on the basis of one of these views, such difficulties have their counterpart also if the opposite view is accepted.

Secondly, the scientific conclusion that both views have equal validity is the result not of any inadequacy of available scientific data, or of technological development (measuring instruments, etc.), in which case it could be expected that further scientific or technological advancement might clear up the matter eventually and decide in favor of one or the other view. On the contrary, the conclusion of contemporary science is that regardless of any future scientific advancement, the question as to which is our planetary center, the sun or the earth, must forever remain unresolved, since both view[s] will always have the same scientific validity, as stated.

Thirdly, it follows that anyone declaring that a person who chooses to accept one of these systems in preference to the other is a fool, while one who accepts the other is a wise man—such a judgment



shows that the person making it is ignorant of the conclusions of modern science, or that he has not advanced beyond the science of Ptolemy and Copernicus...

A further point might be added, though perhaps not pertinent to our discussion. It is that every person, including modern scientists, actually has three options to choose from in this matter:

- (a) that A revolves around B,
- (b) that B revolves around A,
- (c) that A and B revolve around each other.

But such a choice cannot be dictated by science; it would be one's personal choice and belief.

What has been said above is-to repeat-the deduction of the theory of relativity, as it is expounded in various scientific texts, and it can be checked with any scientist who is thoroughly familiar with the said theory. Of course, on the elementary and high-school level, science in general, and the so-called Solar System in particular, is taught from relatively simple textbooks, and the change in the scientific attitude towards the subject under discussion is not emphasized. But, as stated, it would be quite simple to verify it with any scientist who knows this particular field...

### **Answers in Genesis on Geocentricity**

Missionary Dean McClain wrote Answers in Genesis asking for its stance on geocentricity. In reply, they sent him this link:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v8/i2/planets.asp>

After reading it, I sent the following reply to Mr. McClain:

This is hilarious! Without ever quoting a single Scripture, David Malcolm appeals to the ancient Greeks, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Brahe, and Einstein to dismiss (without mentioning any) the Bible-based arguments invoked by the Reformers against heliocentrism, and then he has the gall to say: “[I]t is a fool’s paradise to base any understanding of the Bible on the currently accepted theories of scientists whether it be in planetary motion astronomy or the evolution in biology.”

It is, of course, Malcolm who bases his understanding of the Bible on “currently accepted theories of scientists.” The Bible still says “The sun stood still and the moon stayed” in Joshua 10:13 and “The sun also

ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose" (Ecclesiastes 1:5). One either believes it or not.

Malcolm's gaffe is an example of what I have come to call "the NIV syndrome," which I first observed at a creationist cosmology conference in Columbus, Ohio several years ago. It is an idiocy that the Lord inflicts on those who insist on holding in highest authority the most blatantly Satanic "Bible" ever produced. Even its owner, Rupert Murdoch, was tagged as "the prince of darkness" by the late Chicago columnist Mike Royko. Murdoch<sup>7</sup> founded Fox News. Occult-savvy readers know that "fox" is a synonym for "666" to practitioners of the occult.<sup>8</sup> Some even change their names to "Fox" as symbolic of their allegiance to Satan. Other examples of the NIV syndrome include British geocentrist and Bible critic, Neville Jones, who apparently has no mind left at all when it comes to soundness of reasoning. He is great at fooling the science and Scripture illiterati, however.

### David Bergman on Geocentricity

David Bergman is a creationist physicist who has worked to develop the best theory of electromagnetism yet. Here follows his view on geocentricity.

I have not studied very much of Bouw's geocentric model, and I still don't have any extra time to do so; but I think it is absurd to think that

- 1) the mass of the earth is so much greater than the sun's mass that the earth is stationary,
- 2) that some rigid plenum constrains the sun to rotate about the earth, but allows other objects like the Voyager space capsule to move freely through the plenum,
- 3) that Ptolemy's epicycles are a realistic description of planet motions in the solar system,
- 4) that Newton's laws of motion, derived from Kepler's Laws, are wrong, or
- 5) that the annual variations of Arcturus' coordinates in the sky are anything else but the parallax effect from the earth's orbit about the sun.

Russ Humphreys wrote a more complete and detailed refutation of geocentricism some years ago.

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<sup>7</sup> *Murdock* is a title bestowed on those who are expert in casting spells.

<sup>8</sup> F is the 6<sup>th</sup> letter in the alphabet. O is the 15<sup>th</sup> which is 1+5=6, while x is the 24<sup>th</sup> letter, 2+4=6; thus 666.

Best Regards,  
Dave Bergman

My reply to Bergman:

The funny thing is I don't believe any of the things you believe I believe, Dave. I believe that the earth is at the barycenter of the universe, what I usually refer to as the dynamic center. It is the very laws of physics you point to as evidence against geocentricity that keep the earth at its station. The reason I believe that is because God said the sun stood still in Joshua 10:13 (forget verse 12, that's Joshua speaking). He could have said that the earth stopped her rotation, but he didn't.

Likewise He said the sun went back in Isaiah 38:8. Did God speak absolute truth or didn't He?

In Genesis 19:23 we read, "The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar." A figure of speech right? "NOT literally true," you would say. Then there is Mark 16:9,

Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Literally true? "No way!" you have to say. It, too, has to be a figure of speech if you are to be consistent. After all, the second law of thermodynamics "proves" that no man can arise from the dead, certainly not after three days and three nights; even as Kepler's and Newton's laws "prove" that the earth goes around the sun. Yet, most cosmologists consider the geocentric model less of a miracle than the resurrection from the dead.

The heresy of Copernicus was that he assailed the resurrection and the lordship of Christ (Psalm 19:1-5, Mal. 4:2, Eccl. 1:5, etc.). He knew it, too; that is why he waited 30 years to publish. It was, finally, the premise of Aquinas—that only the will of man, not his mind, had been affected by the fall—that persuaded Copernicus to think men in general, and he in particular, could know better than Scripture. After all, he reasoned, is it not the Holy Mother Church (RCC) that decides what God meant to say but somehow could not frame to say correctly in the first place? Besides, in 1535 had not both the head of the Inquisition and the Pope encouraged him to publish his theory?

Russ Humphreys' "Act and Facts" article was carefully written and well thought out. In it, he actually allowed geocentrists their points. All he did was say he did not believe it and stated why. He did not say geocentrists are wrong. It was Danny Faulkner's CENTJ arti-

cle, not Humphreys', which pronounced the geocentrists wrong. That is critiqued at the web site cited earlier, viz.

<http://www.geocentricity.com/ba1/fresp/index.html>

The worst Humphreys and Faulkner could say is that I am King James only, and they smeared the entire geocentric movement with that tar-brush. But that is not true. Certainly, I find the AV a most sure foundation, but others prefer science, philosophy, or theology. To see this at work, check out

<http://www.galileowaswrong.com>

especially chapter 12 (bottom of the left column). No KJB-only there. Anyhow, that gives you a quick look at the issues.

Respectfully,  
Gerry Bouw

Let me put it another way, dear reader. If all the versions that now exist were out there but there were no King James Bible, I would never have been anything other than an agnostic heliocentric evolutionist. Not one of those versions is inerrant enough to have been authored by the God who created the universe and man. The "originals," we do not have. So God would have created the universe and left us no operating manual. Yet, new-version Christians claim that God holds us responsible for obeying what he did not think worth his effort to preserve from corruption. Do you still not understand why I think the bulk of today's Christians are insane? You would strip from me the Book that brought me to faith and then insist that I am insane for not drinking the strychnine-laced Kool-Aid of modern scholarship that could never bring me to faith in Jesus.

### **The Critics Raved** (R-rated, all sic)

Several times a year we receive an email that really encourages us. This one arrived 13 February 2007:

On Feb 13 the anniversary of the church forcing Galileo to renounce his discovery I'd like to ask you, what the hell, how dumb are you. Pull your head out of your religion and join us in the real world.

ps. people aren't heliocentric, nobody thinks the sun is the center of the universe.

pps. nobody gives a shit where the ‘center’ of the univers is

ppps. stop giving the bible a bad name

“brian G” <bgmed8@hotmail.com>

My reply:

“Thank you for your kind comments. I am heartened with your concern over the Bible’s name. I’m certain you will read and keep it, that is to say, the Bible (commonly called the “KJV” these days), even as it commands you to do.

I will print your comments in the “Readers’ Forum” of the *Biblical Astronomer*. Thanks again for your encouragement.

My reply was not meant to be facetious, just to get him to think about it. In all fairness to Brian, he did apologize for his rashness:

I would like to apologize for the insults, peoples beliefs should not be ridiculed and i was wrong to do so.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Quotable Quotes

Liberals are for killing innocent babies but against killing convicted murderers; Conservatives are for killing convicted murders but against killing innocent babies. For the latter, liberals accuse conservatives of inconsistency.

## COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS

The graduate with a Science degree asks, “Why does it work?”

The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, “How does it work?”

The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, “How much will it cost?”

The graduate with an Arts degree asks, “Do you want fries with that?”

# WORMWOOD

Gerardus D. Bouw, Ph. D.

*And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*

—Revelation 8:11

## What is Wormwood?

Noah Webster's 1828 *American Dictionary of the English Language* has this definition for wormwood:

**Wormwood**, *n.* [Sax. *wermod*; Ger. *wermuth*.] A plant, the *artemisia*. It has a bitter, nauseous taste; but it is stomachic and corroborant. *Tree-wormwood*, a species of *Artemisia* with woody stalks.

“Corroborant” is a term used in medicine to describe a substance that stimulates vigor and energy; “stomachic” describes a substance that strengthens or stimulates the stomach or aids digestion.

At this time, there are some 200-400 species of *Artemisia* known. The most recognizable type we find in North America is the daisy. Indeed, *artemisia* plants are members of the daisy family. Other recognizable members of the family are sagebrush, tarragon, lemon plant, and absinthe. Among all these plants, does the Holy Bible give enough information to identify which form of wormwood is referred to in Revelation 8:11?

## Wormwood in Scripture

The word, wormwood, is found nine times in eight verses of Scripture.<sup>1</sup> The first is Deuteronomy 29:18, where Moses warns the nation that by joining itself with pagan nations “...there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood.” Wormwood always occurs in connection with judgment and the result of sin.

The Hebrew translated wormwood is *la-anah* (H3939 in *Strong's Concordance*). It refers to any bitter, poisonous plant such as hemlock (Amos 6:12) and wormwood. The Hebrew word stems from a root meaning to *curse*. The Greek word for wormwood, used twice in

<sup>1</sup> Deu. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; and Rev. 8:11 (2×).

Revelation 8:11 is *apsinthos*, that is, absinthe wormwood (pictured on p. 22). Absinthe is native to Europe and yields a bitter extract used in making absinthe and in flavoring certain wines. We see then that in Scripture, wormwood refers to plants with a bitter taste, the ingestion of which can prove fatal, even as recorded in Revelation 8:11.



**Wormwood** (*Artemisia Vulgaris*). Inset shows its buds.

## **Apophis**

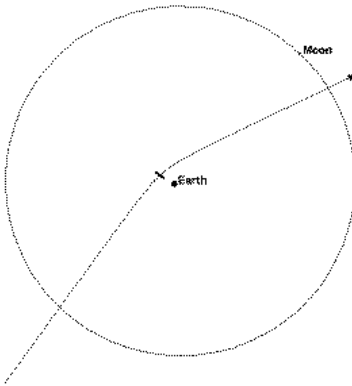
It was a clear night, June 18, 2004. Roy Tucker of Goodricke-Pigott Observatory along with Davis Tholen and Fabrizio Bernardi, both from the University of Hawaii were testing some new equipment on the 90-inch (2.3-meter) Bok telescope on Kitt Peak in Arizona. That night they discovered a faint asteroid with their equipment. Then the asteroid was lost.

On December 20, astronomers observed another object and realized that it was the same asteroid observed six months earlier. A preliminary orbit showed there was one chance in 200 that the object might hit earth on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2029. Immediately, the highest priority was to determine the size of the asteroid, tentatively named 2004 MN<sub>4</sub>. Initial measurements gave a diameter somewhere between 200 yards and one mile (200 meters and 1.5 kilometers). An asteroid of the former size could destroy a large city or cause a large tsunami. An asteroid a mile in diameter could have worldwide repercussions, particularly by sending enough dust into the atmosphere to

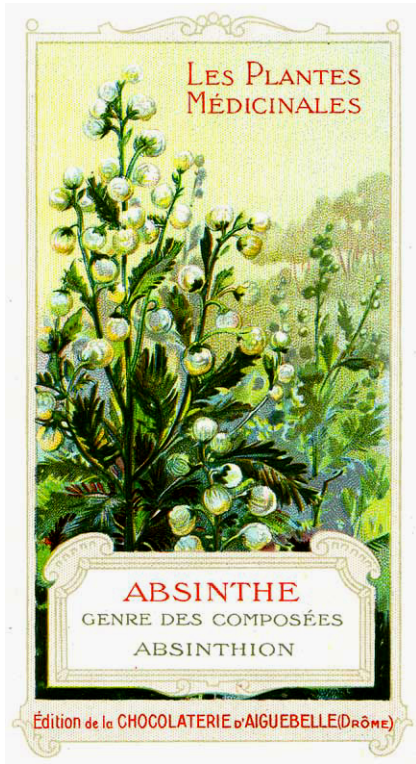
significantly cool the earth for several years, severely disrupting crop production.

Normally, as time goes on the odds of an impact go down, but not for 2004 MN<sub>4</sub>. By December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the impact odds rose to 1 in 170. By Christmas day it was up to 1 in 40 and on the 27<sup>th</sup> it rose to 1 chance in 20. The story did not make the news for two reasons: first, the media also take a Christmas break, and on the 26<sup>th</sup> the Indonesian tsunami devastated Southeast Asia. As it happened, pre-discovery images of the asteroid were taken on March 15<sup>th</sup> of that year by the 36-inch (0.9 meter) Spacewatch telescope at Kitt Peak. The new images were enough to show that the asteroid would miss earth by about 5 earth diameters in 2029.

In January 2005, it was discovered that the asteroid is about 320 yards (meters) in size. After the world's largest radio telescope, Arecibo in Puerto Rico, pinged the asteroid its orbit was accurately determined and it was found that in 2029 the asteroid will pass about as far from earth as the geosynchronous satellites.



The asteroid is now called Apophis, after the Greek name for the Egyptian god Apep, the destroyer. The best estimate of its size is now 250 meters. During its pass by earth in 2029, it will be seen sailing across Europe as a bright, third magnitude star, moving about





one degree per minute. Tides induced in the asteroid will likely change its spin and the earth's gravity will deflect it 28 degrees from its original path. If sensors were planted on its surface as it approaches earth, its structure could be studied and any flaws in it could be detected. These could be used to break the asteroid apart, if that should be deemed necessary in the future.

Pictured at the bottom of page 22 is the path predicted for Apophis at its 2029 passage by earth. The bar across its path is the error in the prediction. The asteroid will pass somewhere within that bar. However, there is a 300-yard (300 m) slot in that bar where, if Apophis passes through it, it will hit the earth in 2036.

## 2036

As it stands at this writing, there is one chance in 220,000 that Apophis will pass through the slot and hit earth in 2036. That may seem safe, but the odds of winning a state lottery are some 200 times smaller. On the other hand, the odds of being killed in a traffic accident in any year are ten times greater than Apophis hitting the earth.

What would it be like if Apophis does hit earth in 2036? First, its impact would amount to an explosion equivalent to 402 million tons of TNT (402 megatons or MT).<sup>2</sup> The largest nuclear explosion ever set off was 100 MT, exploded by the Russians in Siberia circa 1960. The Indonesian earthquake that created the December 2005 tsunami was equivalent to 250 MT. If it hits deep ocean water, it will create a tsunami with almost four times the energy of the 2005 one. Being only 250 yards in diameter, it may not actually hit the basaltic crust under the ocean. That means that it may not kick up an excessive amount of dust, meaning there may not be much in the way of cold winters after that. If it hits land, it will create a boiling cauldron of lava and kick up much debris that will radiate from the impact site for hundreds to thousands of miles.

## What Can Be Done About It?

The asteroid has a mass of 26 billion tons. That is not the kind of thing you could simply “blow out of the sky.” It will take more than sending up all our nuclear-tipped missiles to stop it. On the other hand, if we act quickly enough, it takes much less.

Though I would not worry about such small odds, those who do may want to send tractors to Apophis at its close approach in 2013. These tractors are ion engines that would run under nuclear power and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/risk/a99942.html>.

use gravitation to draw the asteroid to the side, away from impact. Each engine would be in the asteroid's gravitational field, but would emit just enough ion force to hold it a constant distance from the asteroid. This works even if the asteroid tumbles and rotates. Over time, the effect of the force builds up and deflects the asteroid away from the collision-possible area. Remember, the "keyhole," as the slot is called, is only three football fields wide.

If nothing is done, and the asteroid misses the keyhole as now predicted, there is another possible chance that it will hit earth a year later, 13 April 2037. As it stands now, the odds of it hitting the earth that year are one chance in 810 million.

### **Wormwood of Revelation**

I am not suggesting that Apophis is the star, Wormwood, mentioned in Revelation 8. An asteroid seems a highly unlikely suspect to inflict the kind of damage attributed to Wormwood. The Bible says this about Wormwood in Rev. 8:10-11:

<sup>10</sup> And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

<sup>11</sup> And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

We can readily ascertain from the description that Apophis is not a candidate for the fulfillment of this prophecy. Of all the natural phenomena, a comet appears most likely. First, it is not as solid as an asteroid. Second, it has volatile materials embedded throughout it, material that may react to the heat of hitting the earth's atmosphere in such a way as to make a bitterly, rather poisonous, alkaline substance akin to absinthe or Belladonna.

Third, in order to fall on deep sources of water and rivers, the object cannot be in one piece when it arrives in the atmosphere. The earth's gravitational field, or the bombs of men, for that matter, could disrupt and scatter its pieces enough to spread the plague, as it were. Thus it would affect a third of what appears to be all fresh water.

Scripturally speaking, the star fulfills directly the prophecy of Jeremiah 9:15.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

### **Why Are These Signs Surfacing Now?**

The stars were given for signs and for seasons. For the first 5600 years of human history, man could only view the heaven with the naked eye. The signs were comets, meteors, planets, sun, moon, and the constellations of stars. With the invention of the telescope, we saw more heavenly bodies and learned more about the heaven, even the firmament. As a result, signs hidden from our eyes before can now be discerned.

It should, therefore, not be surprising that we can understand today that a comet might fulfill Revelation 8:11. Before, men may have guessed that Wormwood might be a comet, but it would be just that, a guess. Men had no reason to suppose it true because they did not know the chemical composition of a comet. We know from Daniel 12:8-9 that:

<sup>8</sup> And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?

<sup>9</sup> And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

The passage teaches that at the time of the end, as it approaches, the seals will be opened, and then men will understand them then.

### **Conclusion**

Increasingly, man is becoming aware of threats from the sky. Where the sky was once thought of as perfect and immutable, men now see it as a threat. Only those whose faith and trust is in the Lord know that an asteroid or planetary collision is not the fate of earth. The stars have their places, but they do not dictate the affairs of earth. Likewise, they do not dictate the death of mankind. Wormwood will kill a third of the population, but it will not create a “nuclear winter,” nor will it dissuade men from their wicked and rebellious ways in the last days of this dispensation of grace.

## GLOBAL WARMING IS MORE WIDE-SPREAD THAN WE THINK

The Biblical Astronomer has long voiced its opposition to the claim that global warming is caused by the activities of man. We have maintained all along that man-caused global warming is the brainchild of greedy, power-maddened politicians to incite frenzy and to extract money from their emotionally-driven robots. By funneling research funds only to scientists willing to say “Yes, and amen!” to their fiction, these dangerous dictators buy scientific “respectability” for themselves.<sup>1</sup> But global warming is just part of a much bigger picture. The entire solar system is warming. We report here on several articles that have appeared in the recent literature in recent times supporting that little known fact.

### Mars

Two satellites have mapped the Martian surface and its weather in recent years. The oldest is NASA’s Mars Global Surveyor which has been in orbit about Mars for nine years, and the other is NASA’s Mars Odyssey orbiter which has been orbiting Mars since 2002. Their findings have shed some light on Martian surface temperatures and have presented evidence for Martian global warming.

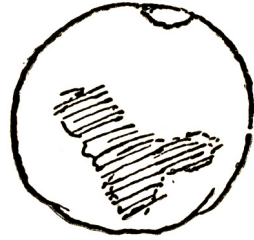
For three Martian summers in a row, deposits of frozen carbon dioxide near Mars’ south pole have shrunk from the previous year’s size. Frozen carbon dioxide is a very sensitive indicator of Martian temperatures because the layer of carbon dioxide is very thin on Mars, there being not too much of it in its atmosphere and the temperature of Mars being just cold enough to freeze carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the first place. Nevertheless, the observations suggest that a climate change is in progress.

Man has been monitoring the size of the Martian polar caps for more than a hundred years. The caps have fluctuated in size before, so there is really nothing new there. Your editor does not have enough data on that to ascertain whether Mars, too, is undergoing global warming as the earth has been since the medieval little ice age. However, I do have in my library the first sketch ever made of Mars’ south polar cap. It was made by Christian Huygens on 13 August 1672 and is re-

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<sup>1</sup> Panorama, 2003. “Increasingly, data from GSFC shows global warming is bunk,” *B.A.* **13**(103):26. *Ibid.*, 2004. “Global cooling? Global warming? Make up your mind,” **14**(107):20. *Ibid.*, 2005. “Carbon dioxide, the formation of Antarctica, and global warming,” **15**(113):100. Anon., 2006. “The whys and wherefores of global warming,” **16**(115):8.

produced at right. The diameter of the polar cap in 1672 divided by the diameter of the planet is 0.21. The same ratio in a picture taken in the 1950s is 0.12, but on other, smaller pictures, the ratio is 0.20. From this you can make what you will.



In addition to the Martian CO<sub>2</sub> frost cap's shrinking dramatically in recent years, other possibly thawing related phenomena have been discovered recently. New gullies which did not exist in mid-2002 have appeared on a Martian sand dune. Boulders have tumbled down a Martian slope, leaving tracks that weren't there in 2003. These all could well be caused by a thawing of ice in a permafrost-like soil.

As if that wasn't bad enough, new impact craters formed since the 1970s require changes to age-estimating models. In other words, the surface of Mars may not be as old as the modern explanation of craters assumes.

## Jupiter<sup>2</sup>

Jupiter's atmosphere, as observed in the 1979 Voyager spacecraft images, is characterized by 12 zonal jet streams and about 80 vortices, the largest of which are the Great Red Spot and three White Ovals that had formed in the 1930s. The Great Red Spot has been observed continuously since 1665 and, given the dynamical similarities between the Great Red Spot and the White Ovals, the disappearance of two White Ovals in 1997 was unexpected. Their longevity and sudden demise has been explained, however, by the trapping of anticyclonic vortices in the troughs of Rossby waves, forcing them to merge. Here I propose that the disappearance of the White Ovals was not an isolated event, but part of a recurring climate cycle which will cause most of Jupiter's vortices to disappear within the next decade. In my numerical simulations, the loss of the vortices results in a global temperature change of about 10 K, which destabilizes the atmosphere and thereby leads to the formation of new vortices. After formation, the large vortices are eroded by turbulence over a time of 60 years, consistent with observations of the White Ovals, until they disappear and the cycle begins again.

A new spot has appeared on Jupiter within the last several months. [—*Ed.*]

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<sup>2</sup> Marcus, Philip S., [www.nature.com/nature/journal/v428/n6985/abs/nature02470.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v428/n6985/abs/nature02470.html). The quote is an abstract.

**Pluto<sup>3</sup>**

“BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--Pluto is undergoing global warming, as evidenced by a three-fold increase in the planet’s atmospheric pressure during the past 14 years, a team of astronomers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Williams College, the University of Hawaii, Lowell Observatory and Cornell University announced in a press conference today at the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society’s (AAS) Division for Planetary Sciences in Birmingham, AL.

“The team, led by James Elliot, professor of planetary astronomy at MIT and director of MIT’s Wallace Observatory, made this finding by watching the dimming of a star when Pluto passed in front of it Aug. 20. The team carried out observations using eight telescopes at Mauna Kea Observatory, Haleakala, Lick Observatory, Lowell Observatory, and Palomar Observatory. Data were successfully recorded at all sites.

“An earlier attempt to observe an occultation of Pluto on July 19 in Chile was not highly successful. Observations were made from only two sites with small telescopes because the giant telescopes and other small telescopes involved lost out to bad weather or from being in the wrong location that day. These two occultations were the first to be successfully observed for Pluto since 1988.”

That was the state insofar as occultation studies went in 2002. Pluto was warming up even though it was moving away from the sun in the course of its regular orbit. Normally, as it moves away from the sun it should be getting colder, however, the rate at which Pluto is currently receding from the sun is not at all great.

Things did not change last year when another occultation happened.<sup>4</sup>

Astronomers at the University of Tasmania have found that the solar system’s smallest planet is not getting colder as first thought and it probably does not have rings. Dr. John Greenhill has collected observations from last month’s event [June 2006, —*Ed.*] when Pluto passed in front of a bright star, making it easier to study.

Dr Greenhill says the results are surprising because they show Pluto is warming up.

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<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology press release, 9 Oct. 2002. The source for this section, quoted here, is <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2002/pluto.html>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200607/s1697309.htm>. “Pluto thought to be warming up.” Quoted here, reformatted soemwhat.

“It looks as though the atmosphere has not changed from 2002 [see above, —*Ed.*], which is pretty surprising because we expected the atmosphere would freeze out as the planet moved further away from the Sun,” he said. “But so far, if anything, the atmosphere has gotten even denser.”

French scientists have shared the measurements they took in Tasmania that night, which indicate that the planet is unlikely to have rings.

So far, we have looked at solar effects, how the sun is getting hotter. There are also some things happening that are cooling the solar system at the same time. We shall look at those next, though the sun is easily winning for now. Finally, we shall look at what is happening in the sun that is causing global warming throughout the solar system. I assume, of course, that our avaricious politicians are not yet willing to accuse mankind of polluting the solar system enough to be the cause of solar system warming.

### **Interstellar Dust**

In the 1970s, when we were experiencing the political agonies of the global cooling fanatics, a group of astronomers proposed that the commonly supposed ice ages were caused by the passage of the solar system through clouds of interstellar dust. This dust is found throughout the galaxy.<sup>5</sup> The Great Rift, the black area that seems to split the summer Milky Way into two streams, is one such cloud. The Coal Sack in the constellation of the Southern Cross is another.

As the sun passes through such a cloud, the theory goes, it absorbs sunlight on its way from the sun to the earth. As a result, the earth gets less sun than normal and so the earth cools, producing an “ice age.”

A 1978 *Astrophysical Journal* paper claimed:

Observational arguments in favor of such a cloud are presented, and implications of the presence of a nearby cloud are discussed, including possible changes in terrestrial climate. It is suggested that the postulated interstellar cloud should encounter the solar system at some unspecified time in the ‘near’ future and might have a drastic influence on terrestrial climate in the next 10,000 years.

In 2003, there were some further developments in the dust observations, though not the theory for the origin of ice ages.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1978ApJ...223..589V>.

Until ten years ago, most astronomers did not believe stardust could enter our Solar System. Then ESA's [European Space Agency, —*Ed.*] Ulysses spaceprobe discovered minute stardust particles leaking through the Sun's magnetic shield, into the realm of Earth and the other planets. Now, the same spaceprobe has shown that a flood of dusty particles is heading our way.<sup>6</sup>

First off, we must note that only magnetic (nickel-iron) dust is affected by the sun's magnetic field. Dust made of stony or carbon materials is generally not subject to magnetic effects. Fine dust will, however, be affected by solar radiation, which is the pressure that light emanating from the sun exerts on the dust, and electrostatic effects.

What is considered surprising in the Ulysses discovery is that the amount of interstellar dust has continued to increase even after the solar activity calmed down and the magnetic field resumed its ordered shape in 2001. Scientists believe that this is due to the way in which the polarity changed during sunspot minimum. Instead of reversing completely, flipping north to south, the Sun's magnetic poles have only flipped half way and in 2003 were more or less lying sideways along the Sun's equator. This weaker configuration of the magnetic shield is letting in two to three times more stardust than at the end of the 1990s. The ESA team postulated that this dusty influx could increase by as much as ten times until the end of the current solar cycle in 2012. Despite this, the sun's increasing temperature overwhelms the cooling effect of the dust.

### **How Is the Sun Getting Hotter?**

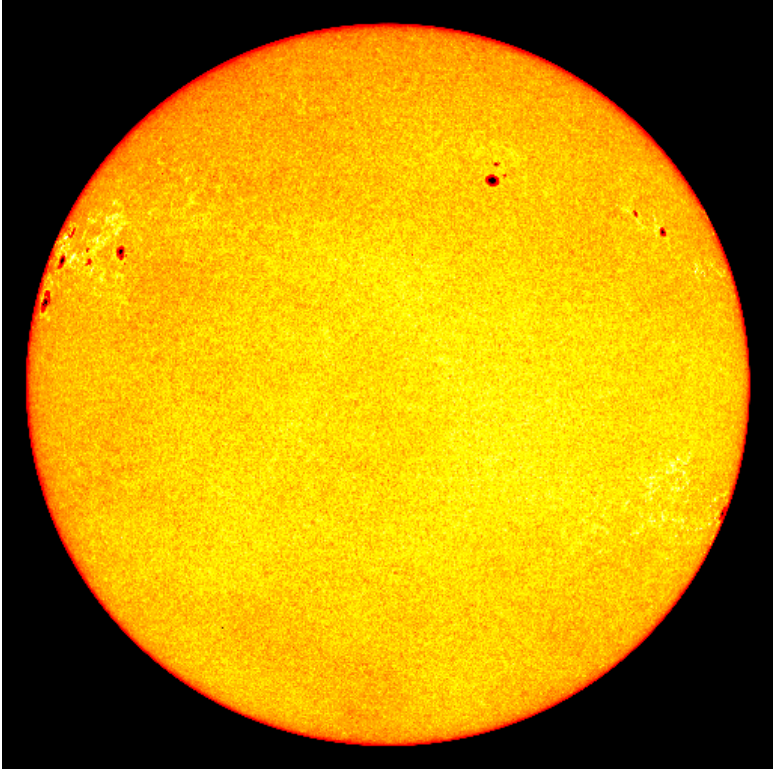
The sun's magnetic field flips over once every two solar cycles, that is, once every 22 years. Each half of the cycle starts with sunspots originating mainly in an area around thirty degrees latitude. In the course of 11 years, the spots form further and further away from the poles until they get to within about ten degrees from the equator. When they reach that region, the sun's magnetic field flips over so that what was once magnetic north is now magnetic south and vice-versa.

At the 1998 annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, astronomer Jay Paschhof presented a paper in which he announced that since the International Geophysical Years of 1954 and 1959, the sunspots have been starting at higher and higher latitudes after each time the magnetic pole flips. You can see the effect

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<sup>6</sup> Press release: Date Released: Monday, August 18, 2003. Source: Artemis Society.





in the solar butterfly diagram on the next page. You can also see there that over the last three sunspot cycles, the sunspots are also starting to concentrate more to the equator. (See the figure on page 32.)

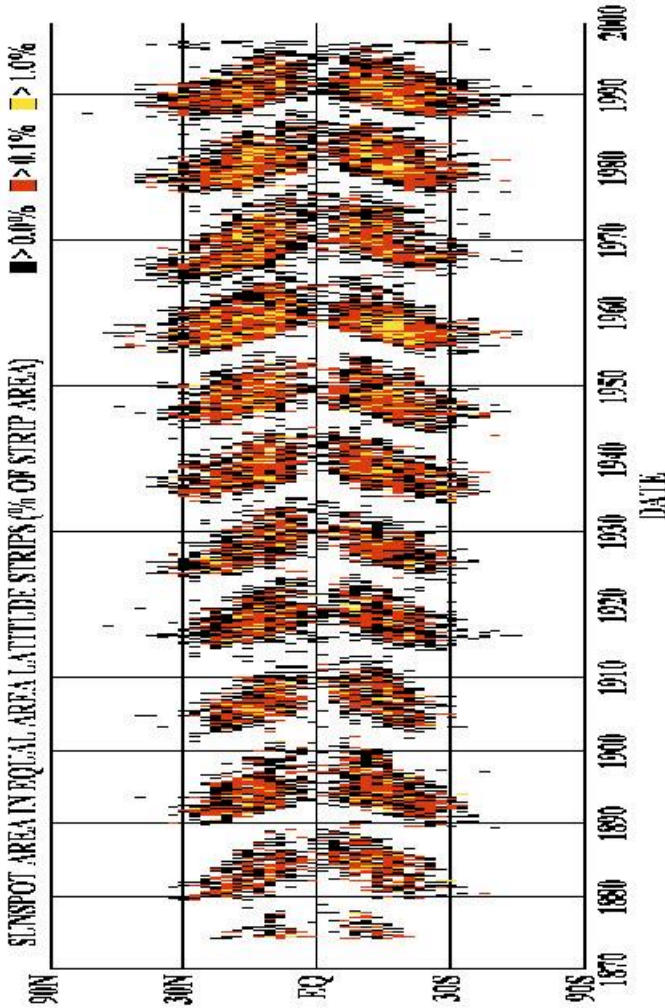
The number of sunspots has been found to correlate with the brightness of the sun over the time. Since sunspots are dark, it is natural to assume that more sunspots mean less solar radiation. However, the surrounding areas are brighter and the overall effect is that more sunspots means a brighter sun (see picture above). The variation is small, of the order of 0.1%, but the fluctuations match the temperature changes almost identically, certainly closer than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **Does This Mean the End of the World?**

The frantic cries of the enviro-wackos are designed to make people think that the world is going to end if we don't do something soon. This is nonsense. A little global warming is good for us.

The Little Ice Age dominated both hemispheres for most of the last millennium. It started with the growth of the Arctic ice cap in roughly 1250 and ended with its fourth temperature minimum about

1850. The Little Ice Age was characterized by plagues, diseases, famines, poverty, fungi, and other serious disorders that accompany cold, damp climates. During that time the deserts of the world expanded while the rain that once watered them flooded Europe and central Africa. These conditions are the conditions to which modern global warming terrorists want to return. A return to the higher temperatures, when the Sahara was fertile, when the world enjoyed optimal health, and which temperatures we are now approaching, is apparently not to the liking of our political and entertainment elite.



## CREDO

The Biblical Astronomer was founded in 1971 as the Tychonian 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. All 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 \$20 per year. Members receive a 15% discount 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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