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THE BIBLICAL ASTRONOMER

WINTER 2009



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\$11.00

Front Cover: Thomas Harriot (1560-1621) observed the moon through a telescope a couple of months before Galileo. For his sketches, see this issue's "Panorama."

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EDITORIAL

There is not much to report on the geocentric front. Everyone who is not in isolation is aware of the economic disaster that has struck the entire world. The last time we encountered an economic disaster, late in President Clinton's tenure, we cut subscription prices of *The Biblical Astronomer*, but we cannot afford that this time. The Association for Biblical Astronomy is a two-person concern: your editor and his wife, the proofreader who proofs most, but not all articles. (If you see anything amiss, blame yours truly.) No one is paid. To hear tell, though, we are a well-endowed organization. That is certainly not so. If it looks that way, it is because we try to make the work as correct and good-looking as possible. Yet the Lord has again met our need; enough money has come in to print and mail this issue.

The Demise of Global Warming?

The first article in this issue is an update on global warming. Warming is good for man. Evidence that supports that conclusion is presented in the article. At this time, it appears that every major power except Britain and maybe Australia has scrapped or will soon scrap the Kyoto accord and the new carbon credits program. Some nations are expecting unemployment to hit 40% if their standards are implemented.

In case you, like I, wish the climate would warm up about 6°C or 10°F, forget it. The weather has been cooling for the last ten years. Since the global warming movement appears doomed, perhaps it is time for Al Gore and company to resurrect the global cooling ice-age threat of the late Seventies when certain politicians and opportunists tried to frighten people into spending billions of tax dollars to ward off the threat of an ice age.¹ In the next issue we plan to present a brief account of the mechanism by which the sun controls the world's weather. The mechanism is not new, but enviro-terrorists pretend that no such mechanism exists.

Panorama, Forum, and Quotes

Over the last several years, we have built up a backlog of news stories, letters and quotes. We could fill an entire issue of the *Astrono*-

¹ Snopes, the Internet's first line of defense against rumors, has proclaimed that there was no pending ice age "consensus" in the 1970s. Snopes gives the impression that the ice-age scare never happened. Now it is true that there was no "consensus" (majority opinion), but the perpetrators of the ice-age scare were vocal, powerful, and influential. There really was a scare; I know, I fought it.

mer with each category. As a result, this issue is devoted to some of the most significant of the Panorama and Readers' Forum stories in our reservoir. We have also added one page of quotes to allow for some of the longer stories to be told.

Geocentricity Revision

Work is progressing on the revised edition of the geocentricity book. About a third of the chapters have undergone revision. Two chapters have been added to incorporate new emphasis and discoveries made since 1992. Figures, photos, and illustrations have been added to the text for clarification.

Your editor hopes to have the revision done mid-spring, but life keeps getting in the way, as it were.

Measuring the One-way Speed of Light

From time to time the Association takes on an experimental project. One of the experiments that has never been done accurately is the one-way measurement of the speed of light. All regular experiments have the light going out and coming back. Because of the round-trip, it is impossible to tell if the speed of light is different in other directions. If there is an æther—and the firmament seems to be that æther—any ætherial wind is rendered undetectable by the round-trip measurements.

Currently, the best way to measure the one-way speed of light is to observe eclipses of the moons of Jupiter. In the last half of the Seventeenth Century, Ole Rømer used eclipse timings of Jupiter's moon Io to measure the speed of light. Rømer timed 80 orbits of Io, 40 of Io moving away from us, and 40 with Io towards us. The difference in the length of time of the two sets of observations gives the speed of light.

We are planning to use accurate timings of the eclipses using atomic clock timings and a highly sensitive photometer and strip recorder to search for timing differences from various positions of Jupiter along its orbit. The experiment was first discussed at the 2007 Houston Conference.

GLOBAL WARMING WILL IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH¹

"Half the work done in the world is to make things appear what they are not." —E. R. Beadle²

"To get some broader based support, to capture the public's imagination...that, of course, entails getting loads of media coverage. So we have to offer up some scary scenarios, make simplified dramatic statements and make little mention of any doubts we may have...each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective, and being honest." —Stephen Schneider³

The Clean Air Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to regulate certain activities that harm human health, writes DDP Director Howard Maccabee, Ph.D., M.D., in comments on proposed rules on CO_2 emissions. The maximal increase in atmospheric CO_2 from combustion of hydrocarbon fuels can *not* harm human health directly; the hypothetical mechanism of harm is through global warming. Many scientists dispute the predictions from the UN IPCC (United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) computer models. Even if the models were correct, however, warming would be a net *benefit* to human health. Hence the EPA has no legitimate authority to regulate CO_2 emissions.

The UN IPCC gives an average temperature increase of 4.5°C as a worst-case scenario. There is historical precedent for increases of this magnitude. Stalagmite proxies in South Africa indicate increases of up to 4°C in the Medieval Warm Period (formerly called the Medieval Climate Optimum⁴). Because of the urban heat island effect, large cities have shown temperature increases as much as 3°C (*e.g.* Tokyo 1876-2004) to 4°C (New York City 1822-2000). We thus have data to evaluate the hearth effects of climate change.

¹ Reprinted from "Warming Improves Health," *Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter*, **25**(6):1-2, 2008. DDP, 1601 N. Tucson Blvd. Suite 9, Tucson AZ 85716. www.ddponline.org.

 $^{^2}$ Your editor inserted this quote even though he does not entirely agree with it; he thinks the estimate is probably closer to 90%.

³ Schneider, Stephen, 1989. Speaking on global warming and reported in *Discovery* magazine's October issue. Schneider was the lead author of the IPCC's "Assessing Key Vulnerabilities and the Risks from Climate Change" chapter.

⁴ Note how the renaming removes any positive implication for warmer weather. The Medieval Climate Optimum was so called because it was a time of abundant food and health. Global warming "alarmists" will not tolerate any truth against their plundering schemes.

In 1995, Thomas Gale Moore published the first of his pioneering efforts, "Why Global Warming Would be Good for You," and in 1998, "Health and Amenity Effect of Global Warming." He estimated that a temperature increase of 2.5°C in the U.S. would cause a drop of 40,000 deaths per year from respiratory and circulatory disease, based on U.S. Mortality Statistics as a function of monthly climate change.

In 1997, the Eurowinter Group (W. R. Keatinge, G. C. Donaldson, *et al.*) published "Cold Exposure and Winter Mortality from Ischaemic Heart Disease, Cerebrovascular Diseases, Respiratory Diseases and all Causes in Warm & Cold Regions of Europe." This was a landmark study that elucidated the mechanisms of serious illness from cold, which are dominated by hemoconcentration, which increases blood viscosity ("sludging"). This can cause death from blockage of vessels serving the heart and the brain, accounting for half of all excess cold-related mortality.

This was followed by "Heart Related Mortality in Warm and Cold Regions of Europe: Observational Study" in the *British Medical Journal* in 2000. These two studies examined mortality as a function of mean daily temperature in Athens, Greece; London, England; and Helsinki, Finland, providing the most comprehensive collection of evidence that mortality *decreases* as temperature *increases*, over most of the current climate range in Europe.

In 2006, A.. J. McMichael *et al.* assume, in "Climate Change and Human Health: Present and Future Risks," that the maximum daily mortality in higher temperature periods will be equal to or greater than the maximum mortality in cold periods, resulting in heat-related deaths increasing far more than the lives saved by warming of the cold periods. This hypothesis is inconsistent with U.S. data showing that mortality due to cardiac, vascular, and respiratory disease in winter is *seven* times greater than in summer. This ratio is about nine to ten in Europe, from the data of Keatinge, *et al.*

The most comprehensive daily all-cause mortality data as a function of the day of the year is from Deschenes and Moretti in 2007. Clearly, mortality is maximum in January and minimum in the warmest months of July and August. This data strongly indicates that warming of average daily temperature would case a decrease in mortality in winter far greater than the slight increase of mortality from summer heat.

In early 2008, the Department of Health of the UK released "Health Effects of Climate change in the UK 2008," an update of previous reports from 2001/2002, edited by Sari Kovats. They used IPCC models that predicted 2.5°C to 3°C mean temperature increases in the UL by 2100. They found that there was *no* increase in heat-related deaths from 1971-2002, despite warming in summers, suggesting that

the UK population is adapting to warmer conditions. Cold-related mortality fell by more than a third in all regions. The overall trend in mortality for the warming from 1971-2002 was *beneficial*. They state, in summary, "winter deaths will continue to decline as the climate warms."

The data from the Eurowinter Group (*Lancet* 1997) on mortality versus temperature can be used for a quantitative estimate of mortality benefits from warming. The authors actually drew "straight-line" fits the slope of the data. The slopes from Athens, Helsinki, and London vary between one to two percent decreased mortality per degree Centigrade of warming. This would lead to an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 *fewer* deaths in the U.S. per year of a 1°C temperature rise. This can be compared to 30,000 deaths per year from breast cancer, 30,000 for prostate cancer, or about 40,000 from motor vehicle accidents.

Heat deaths often represent "displacement" (*i.e.* weakened people die a few days or weeks before prior expectation), but deaths due to cold usually result in months to years of life left. Thus the benefits in life expectancy for warming in cold periods may be much more than nine times greater than lifespan lost in warm periods.

The slopes of the data on mortality versus temperature are fairly linear over temperature variations of more than 20°C. Thus the benefit of warming (and the risk of cooling) should be fairly proportional to the temperature change, for climate shifts of more than 2°C to 4°C.

While urban populations have already been exposed, and presumably adapted, to warming due to the urban heat island effect, as described above, there is no comparable "rural cold country-side effect" described in scientific literature, so we cannot be as optimistic about adaptation to cooling. A major drop in climatic temperatures could be more devastating, especially in rural and less developed societies.

Europe, Others to Obama: "No, We Can't"

After years of complaining abut U.S. intransigence on carbon restrictions, it would be ironic if this is Europe's answer to a demanding package from Obama, writes Phil Bloomer (*New Statesman* 11/14/08). Led by Poland, a number of states are saying that newly proposed standards could wreck their industries and cause massive unemployment. Poland rejected a "bribe" to get it to sign off on the plan by temporarily exempting its coal-fired power plants from having to purchase carbon emissions credits (*AFP* 11/19/08).

Germany is asking for exemptions for its energy-intensive industrial sectors (Reuters 11/14/08); Italy says "It's obvious that goals are impossible" (Bloomberg 11/14/08); France, which holds the rotating E.U. presidency, says that the E.U. parliament's proposal to give power generators ten billion euros to explore carbon capture and storage should be scaled back by two-thirds (Reuters 11/14/08).

Australian states are revolting over Prime Minister Rudd's carbon plan; and one of the world's largest petroleum companies warns that a \$7 billion gas project could literally be floated out of Australia's waters to avoid emissions overshoot, says it won't meet its Kyoto target even by purchasing credits (Bloomberg 11/14/08).

As global warming dies a slow death around the world, the U.K. is becoming increasingly isolated. Search Google for "Benny Peiser" and "mad dogs and Englishmen."

Apparently wishing to keep England company, Obama declares that "his" EPA will treat CO_2 as a pollutant—though Congress may not act until 2010.

Do all readers get the message? Governments and the media are dangerous to your life, let alone your health.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Dr. Lyle Rossiter says the liberal agenda preys on weakness and feelings of inferiority in the population by:

- creating and reinforcing perceptions of victimization;
- satisfying infantile claims to entitlement, indulgence and compensation;
- augmenting primitive feelings of envy;
- rejecting the sovereignty of the individual, subordinating him to the will of the government.

"The roots of liberalism – and its associated madness – can be clearly identified by understanding how children develop from infancy to adulthood and how distorted development produces the irrational beliefs of the liberal mind," he says. "When the modern liberal mind whines about imaginary victims, rages against imaginary villains and seeks above all else to run the lives of persons competent to run their own lives, the neurosis of the liberal mind becomes painfully obvious."⁵

⁵ For more than 35 years Dr Rossiter has diagnosed and treated more than 1,500 patients as a board-certified clinical psychiatrist and examined more than 2,700 civil and criminal cases as a board-certified forensic psychiatrist. He received his medical and psychiatric training at the University of Chicago. (WorldNetDaily.com, Nov. 12, 2008. "Liberals Clinically Mad, Concludes Top Psychiatrist.")

PANORAMA

Earthly Myth

Amnon Goldberg responded to an article by S. Reich, correspondent for the *Jewish Telegraph* saying:

Your correspondent S Reich brought to mind the uncouth myth that the ancients up to Columbus all believed in a flat Earth. This was promulgated in the 1880s by evolutionists trying to prove their intellectual superiority over previous eras.

In fact, the sphericity of the Earth was known to all educated men since ancient times, including chazal - e.g. Yerushalmi Avoda Zara 3:1, Avoda Zara 41, Bereshit R 63, Bamidbar R 13, Esther R 1, Zohar III:10, Zohar Chadash 1:15. The Talmud gives the Earth's circumference correctly as 6,000 parsangs - 24,000 miles (Pesachim 94). Pythagoras, Parmenides, Eudoxus, Plato, Aristotle, Erastosthenes, Euclid, Archimedes, Strato and Ptolemy all knew the Earth to be a globe. This is not surprising since "the Greeks obtained their knowledge of astronomy from the works of the Bnei Yissachar" (Rambam, Hilchos Kiddush Hachodesh 17).

"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers" (Isaiah 40:22a).

Geocentrists are often equated to flat-earth advocates, as if that were the height of ignorance. It is clear from Dr. Goldberg's article that evolutionists have not only swallowed the myth of evolution, but also the myth of a flat earth.

A Not-so-gentle Rain from Heaven¹

In our catalogs, we call them hydrometeors. Now, the operative scientific term seems to be *megacryometeors*. They are "cryo" because they are mostly made of ice. They are certainly "mega" because some recent ice falls in Spain and Brazil weigh over 100 kilograms (220 pounds).

Megacryometeors are not particular about where they fall.

In January 2007, Tampa, Florida, a 13-kilogram (30 pounds) totaled a parked Ford Mustang. In April 2006, an ice chunk the size of a

¹ Quoted from *Science Frontiers*, no. 176, Mar-Apr 2008. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057. Douglas, Ed, 2007. "Watch Out Below!" *New Scientist*, p. 48, December 28.

microwave oven dropped out of a cloudless sky and punched a 75centimeter (30-inch) hole in a metal roof in Loma Linda, California.

Scientists have generally passed off these ice falls as frozen water from aircraft flying overhead. Indeed, some are just that. These ice chunks are composed of blue water, such as that used in aircraft toilets. One even contained a used diaper!

Science took more notice when, in January 2000, Spain was pelted with scores of ice chunks of soccer-ball-size and larger. This mega-megacryometeor bombardment of their country was enough for Spanish scientists to take a deeper look at this phenomenon that had been recorded for centuries.

The Spanish investigators plus cooperating investigators from other countries have concluded as follows:

- Many megacryometeors are too big to have been formed in any known meteorological process—even the strongest thunderstorms;
- Some have fallen from a cloudless, aircraft-less sky;
- Analysis of the water in legitimate megacryometeors reveals simply ordinary rainwater; that is, they are not extraterrestrial;
- Megacryometeors fell long ago before aircraft flew;
- The idea that large ice chunks come from aircraft-wheel wells is unrealistic because the retracted wheels are still spinning and any ice they pick up would be melted by the heat created by the braking of the wheels.

Unfillable Space²

Sometimes even mathematics encounters a seemingly trivial problem that is intractable no matter how many equations are thrown at it.

Take a can or box (liter-size or more) and fill it with identically sized marbles or ball bearings. Shake and pack it down as tightly as possible. No matter how much you work at it, or how many differentsize cans and spheres you try, the unfilled spaces between the spheres will never fall below 36% of the container's volume.

No amount of mathematics has explained this universal irreducible limit. Some weakly suggest that the 36% limit is simply a "metastable" state, but they do not back this statement up mathematically. Random packing density of spheres never exceeds 64%, which is 10%

² Taken from the same *Science Frontiers* as above, p. 4. The article is based on "Pearl Jam," *Nature*, **449**:950, 2007.

lower than the most dense non-random or the crystalline configuration of packed spheres.

Thus, randomness ends in a fixed, immutable, imperfect state!

The difference between ordered and disordered sphere packing may have significance for motions of Planck particles in the firmament.

Another Hurdle to Cross For Space Travel

In past issues we have looked at some of the problems that must be solved to travel through space and to colonize other astronomical bodies. This particular problem has significance for very long space flights.

Bacteria are all around us and inside us. Many are necessary for our well-being, others are deadly. Is it possible that in space, these bacteria will take over?

To answer that question, astronauts took Salmonella, a food poison, for an 83-hour flight in the Space Shuttle, and there cultured it. In the weightlessness of space, the Salmonella turned into a form that was three times more virulent than the Salmonella on earth. Somehow, the space-bound bacteria sensed the weightless environment and covered its cells with a protective film that acted like armor plating. The biological armor made the space-borne cells highly resistant to antibiotics and thus even more virulent to man.

The Axis of Evil

Astronomers are puzzled that cooler areas of the cosmic microwave background (the temperature of the radiation that permeates all of space) are not distributed randomly. The cold spots and several other phenomena are all aligned along the axis of evil, which is a line pointing to the Great Attractor.³ They expected the spots to evenly distribute across the sky. What they find, as usual, is another violation of the Copernican principle which is that all the universe should look the same in every direction so that every place in the universe should look as if it is the center of the universe.

The Axis of Evil (AOE) points in the direction of the Virgo cluster of galaxies. The Virgo Cluster is the largest cluster of a chain of galaxy clusters that appear to ring the sky. That chain is called the Supercluster. Not far off the direction to the center of the Virgo cluster is a larger and denser cluster of galaxies called the Coma Clusters. The Great Attractor, on the other hand, is considered either to be the super-

³ Van Flander, Thomas, 2007. *Meta Research Bulletin*, **16**(4):91.

massive Norma Supercluster of galaxies or the more distant Shapley Supercluster. (It could be both.) The closest superclusters such as the Local Supercluster, the Centaurus Wall, the Perseus-Pisces chain, and the Great Attractor, all intersect the Milky Way "Zone of Avoidance," where the dust and stars of the Milky Way obscure all that lie beyond it. Thus Galactic extinction makes problematic a full investigation of their properties.

For geocentricity the significance of this lies in the observation that the universe appears to be out of balance about the earth; which supports geocentricity's hypothesis that the yearly vibration of the universe is due to an uneven distribution of matter in the universe.

Outer Space Smells Like Fried Steak

NASA has asked astronauts what outer space smells like. The astronauts have responded that, upon first removing their helmets, they smelled fried steak, hot metal, or, as one astronaut put it, the welding of a motorbike.

The big story is now that NASA has asked Steven Pearce, the

managing director of Ingredients, Omega which makes fragrances, to recreate the scent. NASA did so after hearing of his work creating smells for an art exhibition in July, one of which was the scent of the interior of the Mir space station. Mr. Pearce has also been asked to reconstruct the smell of Cleopatra's hair from one of her hairs. "What I will do is try and recreate those particular odors. I'll let NASA have samples and we'll fine tune it until



Figure 1 Astronaut Gene Cernan is stained with moon dust, which all lunar astronauts report smells like spent gunpowder. Lunar dust is extremely fine and sticky.

I've got what they want," said Pearce. "We have already produced the smell of fried steak, but hot metal is proving more difficult," he said.

"We think it's a high-energy vibration in the molecule." In other words, the electrons orbiting their nuclei are kicked into higher energy levels ("orbits") by high temperature.

Now the metallic smell could conceivably be caused by sputtering (collisions at the atomic level) due to the solar wind and cosmic rays hitting the metal or metallic paint of the shuttle and space suit. The steak smell is harder to explain.

To explain the steak smell, consider the following—and this is speculation, mind you. In Scripture, the burning of flesh on an altar is called a "sweet savour" unto the Lord. For instance, when Noah, after the flood, took one of each of the clean animals on the ark and sacrificed it on the altar, the Lord called it a sweet savour (Genesis 8:21). Likewise, when the ram was sacrificed at the priests' dedication in Exodus 29:18, the burnt offering was said to be a "sweet savour." Even when we cook a steak over an open fire the odor is sweet to the nose. Could it be that the smell of the earth, where Jesus came to sacrifice his life for our redemption, is the smell of a burnt offering, the scent of steak? After all, the Apostle Paul writes in II Corinthians 2:14-15 that: "…we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

The Young Rings of Saturn

In 1980 and 1981, Voyagers 1 and 2 respectively flew past Saturn and photographed the planet, its satellites, and its rings. Instead of five rings, the Voyagers showed hundreds of rings, ringlets formed by resonances, and a zoo of unexpected phenomena. The results showed that the rings are much younger than the four to five billion years evolutionists assign to the planet. At the time the upper limit to the age of the rings was put at about 100 million years.

In time, astronomers discovered that many forces acted to disrupt the rings. These included radiation pressure (where sunlight pushes on the ring particles), meteoroid impacts, collisions with other ring particles, sputtering, and drag from Saturn's atmosphere as particles move through it. In order to keep the faith in evolution, astronomers were forced to unlikely assumptions such as the break-up of a satellite well inside the Roche limit, the distance from Saturn where satellites would break apart under gravitational stress.

Panorama



Figure 2: Resonances in the rings of Saturn cause dark and bright spots to form analogous to the troughs and peaks of water waves. Note moonlets below center and about half an inch from the right side and about a third of the way up from the bottom. Photo by Voyager II, 1981, Courtesy NASA.

At this time, the Cassini space probe has been orbiting Saturn for four years and the rings are even more mysterious than before. Moons such as the two in Figure 2 perturb the edges of the rings as they pass by. Such satellites, called "shepherding moons," can braid the ring particles. The shepherd moons create structures that vary on time scales of hours to day. Inside the ring, particles gravitate towards each other, clump, and then bounce away only to repeat the process all over again to slosh in the rings. Cassini's radio telescopes have even recorded the sound of meteors plowing into the rings. Adjacent rings may differ significantly in composition as if the materials and contaminants in the ring have not had time to disperse evenly over the rings. All these discoveries point to a young age for the rings; an age consistent with thousands of years rather than millions.

Stardust Fails Evolution Test

On 2 January 2004 NASA's Stardust spacecraft flew past Comet Wild 2.⁴ For several hours as Stardust flew past the comet, a collector made of aerogel, a lightweight porous glassy material, absorbed dust particles from the comet. On 16 January 2006 Stardust returned to earth and the collector capsule safely landed west of Salt Lake City.

Evolutionary astronomers studying the microscopic dust particles in the collector were shocked by what they found. They expected to find mostly interstellar grains (grains from between the stars, not from the solar system) that clumped together to form the cometary material. Although such clumped grains were found—albeit there is no proof they are of interstellar origin—one surprise was the presence of much larger grains made up of complex minerals that showed signs of shock and melting.

What was so shocking about that? Well, evolutionists have convinced themselves that comets were formed in the cold outer regions of the solar system from pristine material unpolluted by the not-yet-born sun. Indeed, the entire solar system is predicted to have formed from the same pristine gas and dust.⁵ As the principal investigator of the Stardust mission, Donald Brownlee of the University of Washington stated, "We are finding the hottest minerals in the coldest places." Once more, evolution fails to make an accurate prediction; indeed, evolution has a miserable track record as a predictive, scientific tool.

Of course, as any good attractive speculation, the evolutionist will overlook the fault and embellish his story to assuage doubt of its truth. Proposals to explain how the evolutionists' expected "pristine" interstellar material was "polluted" with heat-shocked mineral dust include X-winds (blasts of energy that ejected material from the inner solar system), turbulence (which would be expected to disrupt planetary and cometary formation, not add to it), and orbital instabilities (where the dust particles are pictured as flung out of the inner solar system by being gravitationally redirected by larger clumps of dust). The bottom line is that either the heavy elements making up the minerals were present in the original "pristine" material or else nuclear fusion had to happen as dust clumps collided with each other in the inner solar system before the sun's light was bright enough to blow the dust away from it to the outer regions of the solar system. The latter is deemed impossible, and the former does not fit the evidence.

⁴ Bouw, G. D., 2004. "Visit to a Wild Comet," *B. A.*, **14**(107):7. The comet's name is pronounced "vilt."

⁵ Forum, 1993. "The Nebular Hypothesis," *B. A.*, **3**(66):21.

Panorama

Earth in a Giant Cosmic Bubble?

More years ago than we might care to remember, your editor wrote a series of articles on "missing mass." Astronomers have two ways of estimating the mass of a star. One is kinematic where masses are computed from orbital considerations; the other uses the brightness of stars which is tied to the star's mass via the Luminosity Function. When compare the two methods for nearby stars, we find that counting stars via the luminosity function gives about half the mass yielded by the kinematics of the stars method. When we look at the Milky Way or any other galaxy, the star count is about a tenth of the kinematic, orbital mass. For clusters of galaxies the "missing mass," as the phenomenon was called, ranges from a factor of a hundred to a thousand in massive clusters. In recent years the missing mass has undergone a name change; now it has split into two names, "dark matter," and "dark energy." Today, the term "dark matter" has replaced "missing mass," and dark energy has been invoked to explain why the expansion of the universe appears to be accelerating.

Now, it seems, that the earth might be located in an abnormal bubble of space-time that is particularly devoid of matter. This condition could account for the apparent acceleration of the universe's expansion, for which dark energy currently is the leading explanation. Currently, astronomers think that 74% of the universe is made up of this dark energy, another 21% is dark matter, and normal matter makes up the remaining 5%. Until now, there has been no good way to choose between dark energy or the void explanation, but a new study outlines a potential test of the bubble scenario.

"If we lived in a very large under-density, then the space-time itself wouldn't be accelerating," said Timothy Clifton of Oxford University in England. "It would just be that the observations, if interpreted in the usual way, would look like they were."

Astronomers first detected the acceleration by observing that one type of exploding star, Type Ia supernovae, seemed to be moving away from us faster than they should be. Type Ia supernovae are a useful distance indicator because the explosions always have the same intrinsic brightness. Since a light looks dimmer the farther away it is, it follows that when the supernovae appear faint to us, they are far away, and when they appear bright, they are closer. But if we happen to be in a portion of the universe with less matter in it than normal, then the space-time around us would be different than it is outside because matter warps space-time. Light traveling from supernovae outside our bubble would appear dimmer because the light diverges more than we would expect once it got inside our void. "One problem with the void idea, though, is that it negates a principle that has reigned in astronomy for more than 450 years: namely, that our place in the universe isn't special," wrote one reporter about the bubble.

"This idea that we live in a void would really be a statement that we live in a special place," Clifton said. "The regular cosmological model is based on the idea that where we live is a typical place in the universe. This would be a contradiction to the Copernican principle."

So there you have it, dear reader; still another datum pointing to the geocentric universe. We present several of these every year, and some may object that we are biased, which is true, but no new evidence *for* the Copernican Principle makes it into print. Your editor would print it and critique it if such observation were printed.

Galileo, the Telescope, and the Year of Astronomy

The year 2009 has been designated as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA). It was in 1609, 400 years ago, that Galileo first looked through a telescope. Ever since, the telescope has been the principal instrument of astronomical research. We know that Galileo made his own telescope from the pattern of its Dutch inventor, but was Galileo really the first to use it for astronomical purposes?

Figure 3: German spectacle maker Hans Lippershey emigrated from Germany to Zeeland, Netherlands, and there invented of the modern telescope in 1608.

Credit for the invention of the telescope is usually given to Hans Lippershey



(1570-1619). Lippershey was born in Wesel, Germany and emigrated to Middelburg, the capital of Zeeland, the southwestern most province of the Netherlands some time before his marriage in 1594. It is ru-

mored that two of his children were playing with junked lenses, put two together and found out that a rooster-shaped weathervane on a church steeple appeared sharper and twice its normal size. Lippershey was likely not the first to have used two lenses that way, but he was the first to try for a patent. Eventually the patent was rejected because it could not be kept secret. Lippershey made quite a bit of money making telescopes for the Dutch government.

Recently, as a result of IYA publicity, attention was drawn to Englishman Thomas Harriot (1560-1621) as most likely the to train a telescope on a celestial object. Harriot, a prominent mathematician and friend of the explorer Sir Walter Raleigh, acquired his first "Dutch trunke" (telescope) from the Netherlands in 1609. He promptly turned it on the 25-day old moon on July 26, becoming the first person documented to observe and sketch an astronomical object after viewing it through a telescope. The crude lunar sketch shows a rough outline of the lunar terminator (the division between night and day on the moon) and includes the dark < area in Oceanus Procellarum by the craters Copernicus and Kepler and, above that, the crater Grimaldi (Figure 4).

Harriot went on to produce more maps from 1610 to 1613. Not all of these are dated, but they show an increasing level of detail. By 1613 he had created two maps of the whole moon, with many identifiable features such as lunar craters that are depicted in their correct relative positions.

Galileo is often credited as the first to view astronomical objects through a telescope but Harriot is certainly earlier. Harriot dated his drawing as 26 July 1609. Galileo did not date his drawings so that historians of astronomy have had to use indirect methods to date his drawings. We do know that news of the invention of the telescope reached Galileo in June or July of 1609 and that is took two or three months for his lens grinders to make a telescope for him. The earliest date for any of Galileo's drawings to be made is 2 October 1609. The consensus, however, is 20 November 1609. In either case, Harriot was first.

But neither Harriott nor Galileo was the first to use a telescope to look at the heavens. A contemporaneous pamphlet reporting the events of Lippershey's introduction of the telescope reports that it was immediately pointed towards the heavens. The very first edition of the pamphlet probably appeared in late September 1608. Quoting an English translation of the pamphlet, "... & even the stars which normally are not visible for us, because of the scanty proportion and feeble sight of our eyes, can be seen with this instrument." Unfortunately, the writer (unknown, but a witness to the demonstration of the first telescope) does not say WHO looked at the stars that September. But it was certainly before Harriott or Galileo.



Figure 3: (Top)The first sketch of the moon through a telescope dated July 29, 1609. (Bottom) Harriot's 1613 map of the moon; the best in print for decades thereafter.

READERS' FORUM

Hello Mr. Bouw,

I wanted to say that I have received and viewed, without problem, the new DVD that you sent. Thank you so much! Geocentricity is literally rewriting and 'reforming' everything I've understood about God's universe up until now. It really does bear incredible weight on understanding God Himself, as well. Plus, I never thought that I'd be able to comprehend such sophisticated philosophical writings on cosmology, which proves in a great way to myself that the Spirit of God is bearing witness to your materials. I hope that you find encouragement in this, because it is true. No wonder why the first disc didn't work. It never fails - where there is great Truth, there will also be great resistance!

> For Christ, Ryan

On Marshall Hall

Dear Dr Bouw,

I would like to have your opinion on the cosmology of Marshall Hall. I refer especially to his "The size and structure of the universe according to the Bible and non-theoretical science" available on his site. I have not found in my collection of Biblical Astronomer any reference to his works...I find his description of the "waters above" quite appealing...if true!! Shall we also believe that most—if not all—of the wonderful pictures sent by NASA are just "fabricated" by smart programs of their computers??

I know we live in a world of lies, but are there limits some-where???

Sincerely C. E.

Dear C. E.,

Marshall Hall is a man driven by feelings, not by reason. That is not unusual; about 80% of us put emotion above reason. (Personally, I think the number is closer to 90%.) Theologically, he is a charismatic Calvinist. Even though in his heart he strives to stand for the truth, he has made a career from his conspiracy theories, writing books first about the creation-evolution controversy, which was followed by a series about Bible prophecies and the end time; then he wrote his book about the geocentric-heliocentric controversy, and now about the size of the universe.

Common sense should tell us that 6,000 stars cannot produce enough reflections to account for the Milky Way. Indeed, if the universe conceived of by Hall were real, then over the last 6,000 years the sun's light reflecting back and forth off the mirror-like surface should uniformly illuminate the sky in the same way as envisioned in Olbers' paradox. At 40 light-days distance, the sun's light would reflect back and forth a minimum of four times a year. If the sun were at the exact center of that universe, then almost all of its light would come back to it, focused on it like a magnifying glass focuses the sun's light to start a fire. If the earth were at the center and the sun were off center, then that focal point would shift to the opposite side of the earth, thus creating a hot spot on the other side of the earth but opposite where the sun was 80 days before. Also, we should see a reflection of the sun moving with it but 80 days (a bit more than 90 degrees) behind the sun's present position. Clearly, see no such phenomena.

Common sense should tell us that the star trail photos would look the same whether the earth rotates or the firmament rotates. And common sense should also tell us that a conspiracy to fake mathematical and experimental results to cover up the evidence against heliocentrism cannot possibly be hidden from everyone except Marshall Hall, who has little to no personal knowledge of science, mathematics, or scientists.

I do believe in the waters above, even if these are billions of lightyears away instead of light-days away. The face of the deep is frozen, and if the speed of light were much higher at the creation than it is today, and if God created the celestial bodies *in situ* by nucleosynthesis, and if the radiation were thermalized by the stretching out of the heaven, then we have a ready-made creationist explanation for the cosmic background radiation. Though I would like to know what water is like when frozen to a temperature of 3 Kelvins. As far as I know, no one has done that. Note the "ifs" in the previous sentence; there are about as many in it as there are in the big bang model critiqued by Hall for its many "ifs." These are characteristic of any theory about an origin.

Insofar as the NASA hoax is concerned, go to the http://www.geocentricity.com/bal site and click on the "Did we go to the moon" link on the right. That article appeared in the *Biblical Astronomer* a few years ago.

You are right, there are limits somewhere. In your work, do you lie about all the things that may be wrong with your employer's practices? Did your parents lie to you to cover up all their shortcomings as parents? According to Hall, everyone who believes other than he is involved in deliberately falsifying data or else is taken in by the forgers. Even though in my astronomical training I have repeated the experiments criticized as forgeries by Hall (e.g., parallax, radial velocity measurements, spectral analysis, star counts, etc.), I am told that I have been deceived by the professional astronomers into thinking that what my senses showed as real measurements were phony. Of course, I could be suspected of lying in the minds of some, but then why am I a creationist and a geocentric? Surely, if I were a liar, it would be to my advantage financially and professionally to turn away from such contrary beliefs. If scientists come out of the scientific community repudiating evolutionism and heliocentrism, why are there none affirming Hall's claims of conspiracy, or even his small universe model?

> Respectfully, Gerard Bouw

Location of God's Throne

Gerardus,

Can you please give me some insight as to the direction or location of God's throne or his actual dwelling place? It appears from Psalm 75:6-7 that perhaps God dwells in the north (wherever that is). Also, Isaiah 14:13 refers to the "sides of the north" (not sure what that is either).

If you can give me an insight I would appreciate it. I believe in a literal throne (right now). Yet others have pointed out to me that God is omnipresent. If "heaven" is his throne, perhaps I am incorrect.

Thank you, Brent

Dear Brent,

As omnipresent, God is everywhere. But it is a mistake to assume that omnipresence disallows God to focus himself on one area or to incorporate himself into a body. Jesus was the Word incarnate, the Father as the Godhead was not incarnate (else why would Jesus cry "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" from the cross) and was still omnipresent.

Jacob saw the ladder to heaven from a place several miles north of Jerusalem. He called that place Bethel, the house of God. When the new Jerusalem descends from heaven (Revelation 21:2), its 1500-mile cube lands on Bethel (as well as Jerusalem). That city is called the tabernacle of the Lord in the fifth verse. Jerusalem is more than 30 degrees north. As seen from the north, if Jerusalem were on a roof, the

roof would have a 60-degree pitch from horizontal, steep, but doable with caution; hence "the sides of the north" and dwelling in the north; Jerusalem is in the northern hemisphere of the earth and God came in bodily form in the northern hemisphere. Scripture and the gospel are focused in the northern hemisphere and most of the land mass is in the northern hemisphere, especially the habitable land.

Currently God's throne is in heaven (Psalm 11:4) and, as omnipresent, God can say the heaven is his throne and earth his footstool (Isaiah 66:1). (This is a peculiar property of omnipresence and omnipotence. The best way I can explain that apparent contradiction is to picture myself as if my head is all there is of me, but in truth I am larger than my head, that is, I think myself present only where my eyes are located. Thus the Godhead is on the throne, yet God is present everywhere. This is the focus I mentioned above.)

Finally, we are told that paradise is in the third heaven (II Corinthians 12:2) and that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8). It follows that the presence of God is manifest to man in the third heaven. Thus the throne of God is in the third heaven, located above Bethel.

> Sincerely, Gerard Bouw

Geosynchronous Satellites Disprove Geocentricity?

An argument I have been running into the most against geocentricity lately is geosynchronous satellites. One guy, an otherwise staunch KJB believer, insists:

It is still impossible for an object (satellite) to stay above the earth over one spot with out being in orbit. There is not now and there never has been and there never will be a satellite over the earth that is not in orbit. If you can find ONE satellite that is not in orbit please let me know. It can't be done. There are hundreds of satellites in orbit over the earth now. Scores of them are orbiting at the same rate the earth is spinning.

How can I answer this? Are there any other examples or experiments with objects that behave as geosynchronous satellites would act in a geocentric situation?

—T.G.

Dear T.,

People seem to think that the surface of the earth plays a major role in determining the length of a satellite's orbital period. There is an effect, now barely detectable, but it is such a minuscule amount that the Gravity Probe B satellite was launched to measure it and failed because the earth's magnetic field messed up their gyroscopic spheres. Researchers involved with orbiting atomic clocks claim to have observed the effect, called the Lense-Thirring effect, so named after the two theorists (Lense and Thirring) who derived the effect using relativity, starting with a shell of mass (representing the universe) rotating about the earth once a day. Again, the effect is negligible although confirmation of its discovery could be claimed as proof of geocentricity but will be announced as proof of relativity instead. Again, the effect of the relative rotation of earth and universe is so small that it is not yet certain whether it has been measured.

For the moment, let us assume that the earth is not rotating relative to the stars. We launch a low-orbiting satellite which has a period of 90 minutes and always traces the same path through the stars.

Next, we orbit a satellite west-to-east about 22,300 miles into space and above the equator. It has a circular orbit with a period of 24 hours and orbits in the plane of the earth's equator. (Remember, the earth is still not rotating.)

Now a satellite stays in orbit because the outward force (called the "centrifugal effect") balances the gravitational attraction of the earth (the "centripetal force"). In the modern view, the outward, centrifugal effect is considered a "fictitious force" but in the geocentric model it is a real, gravitational force. Advocates of both models confess that the outward force is due to inertia and that inertia is caused by the gravitational field of the universe resisting any change in motion. But witness how, in the modern view, inertia is thus dismissed as a fictitious "effect," while the geocentric model can only exist if centrifugal force is a gravitational force. Anyone who has ever slung an object on a string can attest to the fact that the centrifugal force feels real enough. Although this may seem largely a matter of semantics, there is a real difference in the underling philosophies; for in the heliocentric view real, measurable effects may be consigned to fiction while the philosophy underlying the geocentric universe says that real effects must have real causes.

Having said that about orbits and their underlying forces, let us return to our 24-hour orbital model with a non-rotating earth. Our prior model has the earth not rotating with respect to the stars and we have a satellite moving west-to-east over the equator with a period of 24 hours. Now let us start the earth spinning in the same west-to-east direction as the satellite and let's let it rotate once every 24 hours relative to the distant stars. The spin of the earth has a minuscule effect on the satellite (Lense-Thirring effect), meaning that the centripetal force (the earth's gravitational force) is not changed by its spin. The satellite is now in a geostationary orbit and this is the modern interpretation thereof. The universe is content because as far as it is concerned, the satellite is still orbiting earth from west-to-east with a period of 24 hours so its centrifugal effect (inertial pull) is not changed and still balances the earth's gravitational pull.

Now let us return to the case where the earth is not rotating in the universe. This time, let us assume that the universe starts rotating from east-to-west with a period of 24 hours. That means that the gravitational field of the universe, which is its inertia, rotates with it. If we now want to launch a satellite from west-to-east to a height of 22,300 miles above the center of mass of the earth we launch it eastward, into the rotating inertia of the universe and raise it up until its orbital period lengthens to 24 hours. In that position, the satellite stays above the same place on the equator, having exactly overcome the westward motion of the firmament's rotation. The earth's gravitational field is still the same and the starry universe perceives the satellite as orbiting once every 24 hours, so the centrifugal and centripetal forces cancel each other out to zero and the satellite stays aloft. This is the geocentric case and it is kinematically the same as the heliocentric explanation presented just before this case.

The only case in which a geostationary satellite would fall to earth is if there is no relative rotation of earth and universe. But we do have relative rotation so there is no case where a geostationary satellite would fall to earth.

The problem with your friend's claim is that he thinks the universe can be ignored in such matters and has not done the math. It cannot be ignored, the universe's tension/pressure about the earth is stupendous, to say the least, and even that is dwarfed by the firmament's mass. In the final analysis, if your friend claims that the heliocentric system has been proven, then geocentrists equally can claim that the same evidence proves geocentricity.

A Small Universe?

A few years ago, through the influence of Neville Jones, who at the time believed the universe was slightly larger than the moon's orbit, the issue of an ultra-small universe arose as it commonly does among geocentrists. The proposal was that the universe is 12 light hours in radius. What follows is the evidence your editor offered against the small universe.

You are wrong in imagining that the stars are within 12 light hours. Twelve light hours is just under 8 billion miles. We would have detected that with telescopes by now. The Pioneer 10 space probe's nuclear fuel ran out when it was 8 billion miles from earth in February 2003. These crafts use certain stars to find the earth and point their antennae. If the universe were 8 billion miles in radius, then the guide stars would have shifted so much that the craft could no longer find earth. Being that close to the edge of the universe means that most of the guide stars that were in front of it would long have passed behind it. To show you this is true, Pioneer 11 lost its ability to point its antenna to earth in 1995. It could not adjust its sights to allow for parallax of the guide stars. It was designed assuming a large universe, and its success is consistent with that and runs contrary to your model and even Walter van der Kamp's 40 light-day model. In a small universe like yours, Pioneer 11 would have lost that ability before it got to Jupiter, yet it went on to Saturn and kept in touch from 5 April 1973 until 30 September 1995. Pioneer 10's guidance mechanism did allow adjustments to point to earth from further out.

Then there are the Voyagers. Voyager 1 is now 9.5 billion miles out. Voyager 2 is 7.5 billion miles out. Voyager 2 is receding from earth at 291,090,000 miles per year. Voyager 1's recessional speed is 332,940,000 miles per year, about a billion miles every three years. Both are still "alive" and communicating with earth.

On Creationism and Geocentricity

This was in response to a letter critical of geocentricity and, to a lesser extent, of creationism. The woman was a geocentrist and creationist until she got involved with the Yahweh occult movement.

Your first paragraph states: "I don't believe that creation was necessarily completed in six twenty-four hour days because in the first creation period the motion necessary to begin the day/night cycle was created last." I take it that you mean the creation of light, the first day. The Scripture says, "The evening and the morning were the first day," (Genesis 1:5) which implies 24-hours. Nothing is said about motion. Besides, Exodus 20:11 says: "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." The six-day count includes the first day and so counts as a 24-hour day in the count in Exodus 20:11. Not to take that literally is like taking out a loan for six days and then, after 144 hours, telling the bank that the first day had not yet come to an end and will not end for another 12 billion years.

You invoke James 1:23¹ as an example where the Bible should not be taken literally about nature and science. Who since Adam would mistake that for a face literally embedded in glass and not recognize that the verse refers to a reflection in a mirror? Common sense says this verse is literally and scientifically true.

You refer to the "arising" of leprosy in the skin as a reason why the "arise" in Malachi 4:2² should not be taken literally. This is only a problem in modern versions. The A.V. thrice uses "a rising" (two words) to describe one of the symptoms of leprosy (Leviticus 13:2, 28; and 14:56). That is not the same word—in English or Hebrew—as the "arise" in Malachi 4:2. Since the meanings of Scriptural terms were redefined by casting them into a secular context in the mid-eighteenth century, I put very, very little store in dictionaries such as Strong's. Since the Bible (whether Greek, Hebrew, or English) defines its own terms, I will stick with them.

Quotable Quotes

Punctuated equilibrium is a form of manipulation in science. Lord Bertrand Russell wrote that evolution in science was an application of the writings of Malthus and utilitarians in economics and not vice versa. It was a fraud.

-D. K. Lifschultz

We'll know our disinformation program is complete when everything the American public believes is false.

> —William Casey, CIA Director (From his first staff meeting, 1981)

Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.

—James Russell Lowell This Present Crisis

We are all God's poor; let us therefore acknowledge the poor who ask of us, that God may acknowledge us, when we ask our needs of him. Who are those that ask of us? Those who are poor, and feeble, and mortal. Of whom ask they? Of those who are poor, and feeble, and mortal. Except the possessions, alike are those who ask and those of

¹ James 1:23—For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.

² Malachi 4:2—But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

whom they ask. How canst thou for shame ask anything of God, if thou refuse to thy fellow that which thou canst most easily grant him?

-Sermon of St. Ælfric (955-1020)

A true Bible believer has no trouble discerning when a man is taught of the Lord versus taught by man. The former never criticizes or corrects the scriptures and will not knowingly contradict them. The latter will twist the scriptures to suit his own opinion of what he thinks God should have said, but lacked the wits to say. The man taught by God knows what it means when David wrote in Psalm 119:99, "I have more understanding than all my teachers" and can honestly claim the same; those taught by men deem it sheer arrogance so to claim and congratulate themselves for their humility. The former knows that he is taught by the word ("testimonies" in the context of Psalm 119), the latter relies on tradition or scholars or other means to learn truth and pats himself on the back for not leaning on his own understanding. To the former, the Bible is a revealed book, inerrant and preserved. To the latter the Bible is a book corrupted by the ravages of time, a long-lost book in need of recovery by godly scholars. The former thinks that when II Timothy 2:15 says "Study to shew thyself approved unto God," it means that through study God will teach him what it means to stand approved before God, thus strengthening his faith. The latter thinks his study wins God's approval. Indeed, the latter would rather the verse were omitted because he doesn't know where to find the words of God. for the "inerrant original autographs" are nowhere to be found. To make it possible for the latter to obey the verse, he changes "study" to "be diligent." That way, he can, by his diligence in works-whether right or wrong-please God by how diligently he "handles" the word of truth in his efforts to restore that which he believes God thought not worth preserving in the first place.

-Name withheld by request

Half of our troubles come from wanting our own way—the other from being allowed to have it.

-Anonymous

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

-Anonymous

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. 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 \$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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