



Biblical Cosmology Primer

The Heavenly Luminaries

The Sun, Moon & Stars

“When the Christian layman in Geology or Astronomy finds a discrepancy between the Scriptures and what confronts him as a result of scientific work, the proper thing for him to do is to abide by the Scripture and lay that thing of science aside as erroneous.”

- Dr. A. L. Graebner, “Quarterly” VI, 42. 1902

At their last meeting, Steven and his Pastor agreed to meet again. Steven had barely scratched the surface, putting forth all the Scripture and questions he so desperately was seeking answers to. As stated in the first booklet, there are implications that arise regarding the physical reality of the dome that must be considered with regards to the Sun, Moon and Stars.

Two weeks later, this young college student greets and thanks his Pastor for his willingness to address these hard questions from Scripture, sincere questions being asked from a member of the church Pastor Albert leads.

Pastor, I would briefly like to bring up a passage we opened with in our last meeting.

“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth ...” **Isaiah 40:22a**

While my point is true, that the prophet could have used a different word if he wanted to signify a ball, upon further research into the Hebrew word the King James translators used, the word “Vault” is equally a sound translation. It can be translated both ways but neither is describing a sphere or ball.

As a Pastor, you likely own a copy of the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon. You can find it using the Strong's reference #2329 for "Chug" as being the Hebrew word and the reference number.

Steven, thank you, I've added that to my notes.

Pastor, can we now move on to the fourth day of creation?

You bet, Steven

“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.” **Genesis 1:14-19**

Pastor Albert, it's pretty clear from our last meeting that the firmament, created on the second day is — and must be — solid, hard, vaulted and strong. Looking at this passage describing the creation of the Sun, Moon and Stars, it's very clear, as indicated three times, that ALL of these lights were placed IN the firmament (dome). Verse 14 says, “Let there be lights IN the firmament”. Verse 15 says, “lights IN the firmament” and verse 17 says, “God set them IN the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth”.

There seem to be two very big conflicts here between what the Bible says and what we've been taught about cosmology. The first being, if the Earth is a sphere, and it rotates around the Sun, don't you think God would have made the Sun first since the Sun, as we are told, would be at the centre of the solar system?

The second and most compelling dilemma is, if the Sun, Moon and Stars were placed IN the firmament, then the distance and the size of these two great lights must come into question, and remember that ALL of the Stars too were placed IN the dome. How do we reconcile the Bible's account with what we've been taught since our earliest days

in grade school, as well as by most ALL Christian leaders? They all agree that the Moon is 238,000 miles away while the Sun is 93,000,000 miles away. They say that beyond our atmosphere, there is this ever expanding, ENDLESS space.

Pastor Al, if everything we discussed in our first meeting is true, then can't you see the extreme conflict of worldviews here?

Steven, what about the moon landings, the ISS and all the NASA pictures and videos of the Earth from space?

Pastor Al, those are very good questions and we will delve into those at some point, but for now,

we can't allow ourselves to get side-tracked until we are convinced of what the Scriptures teach us first and foremost.

Steven, God can do whatever He wants, in whatever order He wants to do them.

Granted, Pastor Albert, there is no doubt that He is sovereign. So it looks like we need to question what we've been told regarding the distance these luminaries are from the Earth, and not only the distance but their sizes as well.

Can we please look at another really big conflict between the Bible and what we are told?

Certainly Steven, go ahead...

Pastor, we've been told that the Sun is stationary, that it does not move, but sits at the centre of our solar system. We are taught that it is the Earth and 7-8 other planets that are supposedly revolving around this stationary Sun. There is so much Scripture that contradicts this and I just can't understand why Christians don't recognise this at all.

The Bible says over and over that the Sun moves, does circuits and was even commanded to stop in the sky and to reverse direction. I would like to go through some of these passages with you and see if you don't agree that collectively, what nearly everyone accepts as truth

is very much in conflict with the Bible.

Pastor Al, let's first look at what is probably the most glaring contradiction between Scripture and modern astronomy. Please read with me the account of Israel's battle with the Amorites in Joshua 10. Let's begin in verse 12:

"Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. 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. And there was no day like that

before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.” Josh 10:12, 14

Pastor Al, was Joshua, the writer of his own eyewitness account, mistaken with his own assertion that the Sun moves? The text clearly says, “... the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.”

Steven, But these are all just how people of the time talked, just as we say that the sun rises and sets. It's just how it looked to them.

Pastor, then you and I do agree...

Pastor, I'm sure you and I agree that according to modern Astronomy, this would be impossible, and if it were to occur, the consequences for Earth's inhabitants would be devastating. Can you see how this account draws a line in the sand all by itself, without even looking at other passages in the Bible?

If we accept what modern Astrophysics tells us about the solar system, then we must reject what God is saying through Joshua.

Please Pastor, let's look at another passage: Please turn with me to 2 Kings 20, beginning in verse 8

“And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, what shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day? And Isaiah said, this sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, it is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.” 2 Kings 20:8-11

Once again Pastor, the writer, believed to be Jeremiah, writes from the basis that it is the Sun that moves. Even if it is thought that the Earth is what changed directions in its

rotation, modern Astronomy would say this is impossible and that if the Earth suddenly not only stopped rotating, but began rotating in the opposite direction, the consequences of this would be disastrous to our existence. So when Joshua and Jeremiah wrote this, they were on the same page with their claims as to which celestial bodies were moving. Keep in mind; we are not depending on these men's knowledge of how God's creation works, but on God's own faithfulness to all generations, mutually confessing that God's Word is inerrant and all sufficient.

If it's OK Pastor, I would like to quickly read other passages that were written collectively,

with the very same convictions

Certainly Steven please continue,

“Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.” Ps 19:4-6

Pastor, Psalm 19 is David expressing his awe of God’s glory as seen in the heavens and of God’s handiwork in all He has placed in the firmament, the Sun, Moon and Stars: “Their line is gone out through all the earth”

describes a pre-established course of movement for all that is placed in the firmament. “In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.” Undoubtedly, again, the sun is described as “coming out” and “a strong man to run a race”.

Steven, this is probably poetic license, describing the heavenly bodies in human terms. But I am honestly puzzled about the sun standing still or moving backwards.

Pastor Al, can't you agree that David totally understands the Sun as moving, having a prescribed purpose in that movement or circuit?

These are but a few that bear witness that the Sun does move. There are many others that further confirm collectively that the Sun was made to have a specific course or circuit prescribed by God Himself. I will reference more if that is alright with you:

*“The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.” **Hab 3:11***

*“The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.” **Gen 19:23***

*“Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.” **Job 9:7***

*“So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.” **Judges 5:31***

*“He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.” **Ps 104:19***

*“The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.” **Ecc 1:5***

*“Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.” **Isa 60:20***

*“From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.” **Ps 113:3***

*“For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.” Isa **13:10***

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day.” Amos **8:9***

*“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matt **5:45***

Pastor Albert, with all of this, can you argue from the Bible alone, using sound exegesis, against what I am clearly understanding the Bible to say, that the Sun does move?

Steven, I guess it's possible, but I'm still having a hard time with this, and I don't want to say it's all metaphorical.

Pastor Albert, before proceeding into the Stars, please let me insert an important statement the Bible makes about the sixth and final day of creation.

In Genesis chapter 2 verse 1 it says:

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,
and all the host of them. **Gen 2:1***

Pastor, this verse is very clear and allows no room for the idea of an ever-expanding universe or the death and birth of stars. The creation was complete, the only things which multiplied

since then are the living creatures, which God commanded to multiply and fill the earth.

Pastor, may I ask you a question: Do you believe that our sun is a star and the distant stars are suns?

Steven, yes, I believe that the observations of modern astrophysicists using the technology available today such as the Hubble telescope have witnessed these events taking place.

Pastor Albert, please, with all due respect I must then say that in believing such, you are in direct conflict with the Bible's account of creation. The Bible names three types of luminaries and permits no

allowance for saying any two are of the same type.

Please allow me to present some examples:

Genesis chapter 1 verse 16 says:

*“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.” **Gen 1:16***

In many places in Scripture the distinction between the three types is clear:

*“Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night ...” **Jer 31:35a***

*“To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:
The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever: The moon
and stars to rule by night: for his mercy
endureth for ever” Ps 136:7-9*

*“Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.”
Ps 148:3*

*“Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and
sealeth up the stars.” Job 9:7*

Pastor Albert, thank you for your patience in hearing all this out. I must point to some other passages that further testify of this topic. Please turn to Matthew 24:29

*“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” **Matt. 24:29***

Now, please go to Mark with me,

*“And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.” **Mar 13:25***

No doubt Pastor that these two passages are speaking of the same event, do you agree?

Yes Steven

Pastor, the Biblically ignorant will quickly say that Jesus is speaking metaphorically here. Pastor, Please forgive me if this is the position you hold. I'm not trying to demean or show disrespect towards you in any way.

Can we look at another passage testifying to the exact same event? Please go to Revelation 6.

*“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.” **Rev 6: 12, 13***

Pastor, can you see the problem trying to say

Jesus was speaking metaphorically?

Yes Steven, it has to be literal. John, the Revelator is describing the event using metaphor himself.

“the sun became black as sackcloth of hair”

“the moon became as blood”

“the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs”

Pastor, if the stars were what we are officially told they are, and stars are really as enormous as NASA says, then this is impossible...how can millions of “beach balls” all fall onto one marble?

These are very interesting observations, **Steven**.

Pastor, All of the Scripture we've looked at in this meeting and in our last about the firmament testify to the fact that the luminaries are local, much closer than we've been told.

This can't be denied.

Yes Steven, these are very difficult passages to wrap my head around. However, I must caution you about this. If this narrative became accepted by modern scholars, the effect would be horrendous. People, by the millions would throw their Bible in the trash and say,
"I guess it is a fairy tale after all".

Well Pastor Albert, that's the whole point; we are to choose whom we believe; we cannot claim to be adherents to the Scriptures, whilst believing and supporting what NASA and God denying scientists claim, can we? Either the Bible is a fairy tale, or NASA is a fairy tale, their respective claims are irreconcilably opposed to each other. Scientists, and preachers, who straddle the fence trying to reconcile them are either ignorant or dishonest, and are leading many astray.

Pastor Albert, would you stand for the Scriptures when millions throw their Bibles in the trash and say:
“I guess it is a fairy tale after all”?

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