

**THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD” Psm. 19:1**

In Psalms 19:1- 4 we read:

Heavens

The heavens declare the glory of God,

Heavens

and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Heavens

Day after day they pour forth speech

Heavens

night after night they display knowledge.

Heavens

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

Earth Rise

Their voice goes out into all the earth,

Earth

their words to the ends of the world.

Sun

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

The heavens declare the glory of God!

Today brethren we would like to pause and reflect on the glory, the grandeur and the AWESOME EMENSITY of the universe that God has created.

Hubble Space Telescope- Hubble’s Universe-27 or Journey Thru Time X

We are living in a time when because of the increase of knowledge, the glories of the heavens can be unveiled as never before. We will see things never before possible, through the eyes of the Hubble Space Telescope as it circles far above the earth free from the pollution of the earth’s atmosphere.

Beautiful star scene

In addition, as we progress we will consider some of the latest scientific discoveries that will strengthen our faith as they corroborate the words of Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Star Scene

As we view some of the glories of God's creation, may it not be just from the standpoint of viewing works of art in an art gallery. But rather may it be as if God were speaking to us as he did to the prophet Job ages ago, when Job asked why God permitted him to suffer so much. Do you remember how God replied? God comforted him by calling to his attention His power and wisdom as manifested in the wonders of His creation.

Job 38: 1, 4, 31,33 (NAS)

"Then the LORD answered Job...Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth..."Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion?... "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth?...?"

So for us, as we view the glory, power and wisdom in the wondrous precise design of God's physical universe, may it strengthen our faith to trust **His wisdom in what ever he permits in our lives**, knowing it is only permitted for our best eternal welfare.

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Verse four of the 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm says,

Psalm 19:4

"In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,"

Perhaps it would be fitting to begin our journey through the heavens today by reflecting upon our sun. For indeed our sun is responsible for all life upon our planet earth. Without it's life giving light and warmth, life as we know it would be impossible.

Solar system -

The earth is positioned just the right distance from the sun for the perfect temperatures for life. Not too hot or too cold.

Planet Mercury - 76

Not like planet Mercury where the temperature varies from Minus 300 degrees to plus 800 degrees Fahrenheit.

Photosynthesis by green plants-Natural History of the Universe -151

Our oxygen supply on earth is produced by photosynthesis in green plants caused by the sun. All our food supply is dependant upon the sun. All our energy whether coal oil gas or electricity all originally came from the sun. All life is dependant on the sun. Hence we can see the analogy of our lords words in:

Matt 13:43

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

For "The Christ" head and body will be the source of all life to whosoever will in the kingdom.

Sun – Journey Thru Time X-Ray Photo - 19

Our sun is literally a star ablaze with the energy of atomic fusion which takes place when hydrogen is converted into helium releasing tremendous energy. This is an x-ray photo of it's blazing release of energy.

Sun flares-Natural History of the Universe-99

Here we see giant sun flares rising to a height 45 times greater than the diameter of the earth.

Sun – Journey Thru Time Eclipse - 16

Our sun is quite large 864,000 miles in diameter. It could contain 1 million 300 hundred thousand earths within it's sphere. However when compared to other stars our sun is in reality only an average size star.

Drawing of Largest stars compared to our Sun - Cosmic mind-boggling book -15

In this chart we can see how it compares to the largest star Betelgeuse, which has a diameter of 700 million miles.

To get a better idea of these sizes, first bear in mind that 1million 300 hundred thousand earths could fit within the sun. Now imagine reducing the sun to the size of a pea, then the largest star would be a balloon **39 ft in diameter**.

One of brightest Suns in sky – Hubbles Universe 67

Here is one of the brightest suns, 4 million times brighter than our sun and 150 times larger. It is constantly ejecting blazing material outward.

Thus we can begin to understand the meaning of:

1 Cor 15:41-43

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

Stars differ tremendously in magnitude, color and brilliancy. The telescope has added more force to Paul's argument. That each member of the Church will receive glory in direct proportion to their degree of faithfulness.

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#### Milky Way viewed with natural sight – Splendors Of The Universe - 73

If we were fortunate to live way out in the country away from city lights, as we looked up at the sky directly overhead, we would see the stars of our Milky Way galaxy in all their brilliance something like this.

#### Milky Way by natural sight

What appears like faint puffs of clouds are in reality stars which are so far away they just blend together looking like a cloud.

#### Close up of Milky Way through telescope – Splendors of Universe - 10

But as we view a little closer through a telescope we see the clouds are in reality individual stars that look like their almost touching one another. But in reality tremendous distances separate the stars.

#### Our Solar System – Astronomy -59

To illustrate the distances that separate the stars, let's consider the relative distances between our sun and the solar system with it's 9 planets circling about it, Mercury closest to the sun, then Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto,

#### Alpha Centuri – Splendors of the Universe - 78

Then we'll compare the distance to the nearest star to our sun. It's called Alpha Centuri, it's the brightest star on the left. It's  $4 \frac{1}{3}$  light years from the sun. Remember a light year is a unit of measure astronomers use. It is the distance that light travels in a year traveling at the speed of 186,000 miles in one second.

If the size of our sun was represented by a basketball in New York city, then on the same scale our solar system with it's 9 planets circling about it would have a diameter of not quite 2 miles and the **closest star** would be a basketball 5000 miles away in Hawaii. Thus our sun's nearest star neighbor is 25 trillion miles away.

#### Photo of Apollo to the Moon

Another analogy to show the distance to our nearest star, is to imagine we were going to take an Apollo type space craft trip to this star, traveling at the average speed that the Apollo Space Craft flew to the moon. It would take 850,000 years to reach the nearest star.

#### Heavens Photo

This same basic distance relationship exists between all the stars, they are separated by tremendous distances.

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Let's now envision our journey traveling beyond our nearest star and venturing out to visit our galaxy.

#### Spiral galaxy like Milky Way

Our galaxy is a spiral galaxy which would look similar to this one if we were to view it from above looking down. Our Milky Way galaxy has 400 billion suns rotating around it's center core.

#### Galaxy on edge – Journey thru Time - 160

Here is a similar galaxy as our Milky Way viewed on it's edge. OUR milky Way galaxy would look like this from about 50 million light years away. When we look directly overhead we are seeing a similar edge view of our galaxy as this one, only we're much closer in. The Milky Way galaxy is 10,000 light years thick at it's core, and less than 3000 light years thick in the vicinity of our sun which is 2/3rds of the way out from the hub. With the latest instruments scientists have found that our Milky Way galaxy is 80,000 light years wide. Just think light traveling 186,000 miles a second would take 80,000 years to reach from one end of just our one galaxy to the other side.

#### Milky Way Galaxy taken with a fish eye lens- Splendors of the Universe – 4

This is a photo taken of the night sky over Australia. A fish eye lens was used that takes in the entire 180 degree dome of the sky. It shows our disc shaped Milky Way Galaxy from an edge side view looking towards it's center hub from earth's location.

#### Top View of a Spiral Galaxy –Universe and Beyond small photo on 15

In other words as we look up into the sky directly overhead, it's as if we were about here (Point) 2/3rds out from the center hub to the edge, looking toward the center hub.

#### Milky Way Galaxy taken with a fish eye lens- Splendors of the Universe – 4

Thus when we look directly overhead from earth we're looking through 2/3rds of our galaxy towards the center Hub from an edge side viewpoint.

#### Plan view chart of Milky Way – Splendors of Universe 15

This is a top view illustration of our Milky Way showing the location of our sun and various other stars and Nebula. The center of our Galaxy would be in the upper right hand corner direction about 2/3rds further in from our sun.

Notice the location of our sun and the various Nebulas in fairly close proximity to us. We will show these Nebulas shortly for they are amongst the most colorful portions of our home galaxy.

Orion nebula, - North American Nebula, - Crab nebula, - Eagle Nebula, -

Horsehead Nebula – Our Universe - 232

The horsehead Nebula located in the constellation of Orion. Nebulas are vast clouds of cosmic gases and matter which are the breeding grounds of new stars.

Orion Nebula - Splendors of the Universe - 109

This is the Orion Nebula. Seven hundred stars can be detected in their early stages of development. This nebula's diameter is 30,000 light years, so large that you could place 20,000 of our solar systems end to end within it's diameter.

As we behold the beauty of the Orion Nebula we reflect on the words in Job:

Background of scripture on Orion — 84

Job 9:5, 8-10 (NAS)

5 "It is God ...Who alone stretches out the heavens...Who makes the Bear, Orion,  
and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south;  
10 Who does great things, unfathomable, and wondrous works without number.

Truly unfathomable wondrous works without number.

Orion – Faint glow is Rossette Nebula – Splendors of Universe - 84

A third glory of Orion is seen just faintly in this photo of Orion with a normal camera lens. It's a faint rose glow on the left.

Which when seen with a telescope:

Rosette Nebula - Splendors of the Universe -87

is the glowing wreath of the Rosette Nebula.

Eagle Nebula – Hubbles Universe 49

Another great breeding ground of new stars is the Eagle Nebula.

Eagle Nebula Close up – Hubbles Universe 51

Close up of the Eagle Nebula. These elephant trunk columns of gas are about the diameter of our solar system and are the beginning of the formations of stars.

Tarantula Nebula – Hubbles Universe - 53

As we view other brilliant nebulas we reflect on the words of Ps 33:6

“By the word of the LORD”

Hour glass Nebula – Hubbles Universe - 73

“were the heavens made;”

Cats Eye Nebula - Hubbles Universe - 75

“and all the host of them”

Helix Nebula - Hubbles Universe - 77

“by the breath of his mouth.”

Super Nova - - Hubbles Universe - 79

This is a super nova which takes place when a star reaches the end of it's life. When most of it's hydrogen fuel has changed to helium it violently explodes, releasing in the process more energy than our sun will produce in it's 10 billion year life span.

Cygnus Loop – A Journey Through time - 181

A portion of the Cygnus Loop which is the remains of a cataclysmic supernova 15,000 years ago.

Crab Nebula – Our Universe 235

The Crab Nebula is a gas cloud ejected from a supernova explosion. In the center lies a pulsar, or large star's crushed core that rotates about 30 times a second.

Supernova remnant - - Hubbles Universe – 81

This is the gaseous remnant of an exploding star

Ring Nebula – Star Watching - 82

A low mass star like our sun expanded and shed it's outer gaseous envelope, exposing it's inner core.

Planetary Nebula – Star Watching 81

The Great Planetary Nebula is the gas thrown off by an exploding star before it finally collapsed in on itself.

It may seem strange to think in terms of a star ever burning out as it were. But we believe this is in fulfillment of scripture.

Ps 102:24-27 (NAS)

(Verse 24 are the words of our Lord in Gethsemane when He prays not to be cut off from eternal life.)

24 "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, (God answer Jesus)  
Thy years are throughout all generations.

25 "Of old Thou didst found the earth; and the heavens are the work of Thy hands.

26 "Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed.

27 "But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end.

We believe this scripture has a dual application. We can see a symbolic application to the present evil social structure of heavens and earth being changed, and supplanted by a New Heavens and Earth.

But in addition I believe the heavens in verse 26 is referring to the literal stars of heaven, and how they will ultimately wear out as their nuclear fuel will be consumed. For notice in verse 25 God is speaking to Jesus saying, "the heavens are the work of thy hands, and even they will perish but you my son will endure forever."

It doesn't seem to fit to apply the heavens in this scripture to the present evil spiritual ruling powers that will be removed, as being the heavens that were the work of our Lord's hands.

We already see evidence of a few stars in these last photos, of having their fuel supply wearing down. But we have our heavenly fathers promise in this scripture that they will be changed, referring to the fact that they will be replaced, or possibly that their fuel will be replenished by our glorified Lord.

We know this would have to be true of our sun. For we have God's promise in:

Gen 8:22 (KJV)

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

So if after 5 or 10 billion years the sun's fuel wears down, God will replenish it or replace it to fulfill his promise.

Milky Way Galaxy taken with a fish eye lens- Splendors of the Universe – 4

The beautiful Nebulas we've been viewing are all part of our galaxy. Let's go on to consider further the immensity of our home Galaxy and the innumerable number of stars it contains. Even with the naked eye it is a wonder to behold.

Stars of Milky Way – Splendors of the Universe 10

But with the aid of the telescope it becomes breath taking.

Milky Way - Splendors of the Universe - 16

A wispy cloud of Celestial Gas 30 light years long



Eta Carinae Nebula - Splendors of the Universe - 83

The largest star- forming region in our sector of the galaxy.

Center of our Galaxy – The Universe and beyond - 86

This is looking into the center of our Galaxy, some 56,000 light years away. We see millions upon millions of stars. A total of some 4 billion in our galaxy alone.

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To get a perspective to appreciate how great this distance really is let's imagine we are going to take a step by step journey straight up from our earth until we reach the top of our galaxy.

Man Sleeping in Lincoln Park – 1 Meter

We begin our journey leaving one of our friends resting after a picnic in Lincoln park. We're 1 meter above him which is roughly 1 yard

10 Meters up

Now we're 10 meters up. In each of the next photos we will go 10 times higher than the previous photo.

100 Meters up

Now we go from the 10 meters, to 100. So notice each step upward in our slides is not the same distance up each time, -- but as a logarithm, each step is 10 times higher than the previous step.

1000 Meters 1 Kilometer

To a 1000

10,000 Meters – 10 Kilometers

To 10,000 Meters

100,000 Meters – 100 Kilometers

To 100,000

1 Million – 1000 Kilometers

To 1 Million meters

10

10 million - 10,000 Kilometers

To 10 Million, now we can see the earth somewhat like the astronauts when they went to the moon.

100 Million - 100,000 Kilometers

100, million meters

1 Billion – 1 Million Kilometers

1 Billion. Now we're high enough so we could see the entire orbit of the moon around the earth.

10 billion – 10 Million Kilometers

10 billion. Now we are high enough to see 4 days of the orbit of our earth around the sun.

100 billion – 100 Million Kilometers

100 billion. We're now high enough to see 6 weeks of earths orbit around the sun.

1 Trillion – 1 Billion Kilometers

1 Trillion meters. Now we are able to see the orbits of the inner planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars and some of Jupiter.

10 trillion – 10 Billion Kilometers

10 trillion meters. Now we can see most all the orbits of the outer planets Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The diameter of the furthest out planet Pluto is 1/800<sup>th</sup> of one light year.

100 Trillion – 100 Billion Kilometers

100 trillion 1000 meters. Now we're fairly well above our solar system

1 Trillion Kilometers

1 trillion Kilometers. Now only the sun can be seen against a background of fainter stars beyond.

10 trillion Kilometers – 1 Light year

10 trillion kilometers. One central star brighter than the rest because it is so much nearer than the other stars.

### 1 Thousand Light Years

For the sake of time we now jump not 10 times further out but 1000. Now we're 1000 light years above our friend in Lincoln Park. In this view within the disk of our Milky Way almost every star that can be seen from earth with the naked eye now lies within this square.

### 10 Thousand light years

10 thousand light years. We no longer can see our individual sun, but it is in the center of the image.

### 100 Thousand light years

100 thousand light years. Now we can see most of our entire Milky Way Galaxy. Some 400 billion stars bound by gravity rotating around the central region.

### 1 Million Light Years

We go 1 more step. One million light years up from when we left our friend in Lincoln Park. Our journey has taken us one Million light years to just get a nice overview of our own one galaxy.

Perhaps envisioning driving this distance in a car say at 100 miles an hour would give us a different perspective we're more familiar with. How long would it take to drive to the center of our galaxy at 100 miles an hour? It would take 201 billion years.

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Having seen the immensity and glory of God in our galaxy alone, let's venture out beyond our galaxy.

There are many different types of galaxies. One of the most famous is the Andromeda Galaxy.

### Andromeda Galaxy – Splendors of the Universe - 115

It resembles our own Milky Way, although it's diameter is slightly larger. Light from this awesome creation has been traveling for over 2 million years before reaching the camera lens.

### Whirlpool galaxy – A Journey through time - 151

20 million light years away we see 60 billion stars of the Whirlpool galaxy with it's smaller satellite galaxy.

### Galaxy M64 - A Journey through time - 158

Ps 97:6 "The heavens declare His righteousness,"

NGC 4565 - A Journey through time - 160

“and all the people have seen His glory.”

Spiral Galaxy – Hubbles Universe - 85

Galaxy upon galaxy

Starburst Galaxy – Hubbles Universe - 89

Each different, each containing billions upon billions of suns.

Cartwheel Galaxy – Hubbles Universe - 91

And just think Ps 147:4-5 tells us Our LORD Jehovah,

Coma Cluster Galaxy – Hubbles Universe - 95

“counts the number of the stars;”

Galaxy opposite Contents page – Universe and Beyond

“He gives names to all of them.”

Magellanic cloud spiral galaxy – Universe and Beyond -92

“Great is our Lord,”

(Bottom) Elliptical Galaxy - Universe and Beyond -93

“and abundant in strength,”

Edge on spiral galaxy - Universe and Beyond 93

“His understanding is infinite.”

M83 Galaxy - Universe and Beyond –104

Truly our Lord’s creative powers are unfathomable.

The next photo made by the Hubble telescope probed deeper in space than ever before. It left me awestruck as I believe it will do the same for you.

The Telescope was pointed at an area of the sky that appeared empty near the big dipper. In order to get the deepest probe possible they left the telescope pointed at the exact same spot night after night with it’s lens wide open hour after hour in order to

collect enough light to register from the deepest furthest out portions of the universe. The exposure was 100 hours long.

In order to grasp how small a portion of the heavens are photographed in this next slide, the astronomer suggests for each of us to imagine we are holding a grain of sand between our thumb and forefinger. Are you holding that grain of sand, good! Now please follow with me. Stretch out your arm to full length upward, envisioning that grain of sand pinched between your thumb and forefinger. This next slide of the Hubble telescope is going to cover just the amount of the heavens represented by that grain of sand held at arms length.

Hubble Deep Field - Splendors of the Universe – 136-137

Our hearts bow in humble awestruck adoration as we cry out “My God My God How Great Thou Art.”

With the exception of these two stars with 4 spikes radiating out that are part of our galaxy, all the rest are galaxies.

Think for a moment of the total expanse of the heavens around the entire earth. Some 20 billion light years in diameter. And when we probe into this one tiny pinpoint of the heavens, which is as a grain of sand at arms length, we see myriads of galaxies. And on the average each of them contain 100 billion suns.

If this many stars are in this tiny portion of the total heavens it’s not beyond reason to believe the astronomers estimate when they tell us there are over 100 billion galaxies.

(On above photo)

Neh 9:6 (NAS)

6 "Thou alone art the LORD. Thou hast made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. Thou dost give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before Thee.

The heavens truly declare the Glory and power of God beyond our ability to comprehend!

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Now we would like to go on to consider the **ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE**. Scientists conclude there are two fundamental alternatives. Either it has always existed, or it began at some point in the past.

Ever since the time of Aristotle some 2300 years ago scientific theory said that the universe was without a beginning, that it always existed. This we realize was contrary to what Gen. 1:1 Tells us; “In the **beginning** God created the heavens and the earth.”

Now with data from the latest scientific instruments, most cosmologists in the past few decades have reversed their thinking. There was indeed a beginning to our universe!

Astronomers have determined this, utilizing an instrument called a spectroscope to measure star light. It consists of a prism which breaks up the light into its component colors. It's used in two ways. One, is to determine the elements that comprise a star.

Elements shown in spectroscope reading.

Every element that is in a hot gaseous state produces its own unique pattern of lines as we see here. Hydrogen Alpha, - Sodium, - Magnesium

Spectroscope Readings showing red shift of hydrogen.  
Natural History Of The Universe - 47

The second usage is to determine if the light is traveling toward you causing a blue shift in direct proportion to its speed, or if its moving away from you it causes a red shift.

(Explain slide)

Hydrogen line in Stationary source,

Quasar 3C-273 red shift .16 = velocity 48,000 Kilometers per second,

Quasar PKS2000 red shift 3.7 = Velocity 274,000 Kilometers per second)

In 1945 the Astronomer Edwin Hubble (for whom the space telescope is named) discovered that the universe is expanding outward from a common center.

Red shift illustrated

He found that the distant galaxies are moving away from us at a tremendous rate of speed. In fact he found there was a precise, linear relationship between the distance and the velocity of the galaxies movement. A galaxy that is twice as far as another is traveling away from us twice as fast. Which we can see here. The further away the galaxy is, we see the red shift gets greater and greater.

Simulated balloon being blown up – Astronomy -158

To understand why all the galaxies should appear to be flying away from us, imagine that you drew a number of dots on a balloon with a marker. Then as you blew up the balloon, from the standpoint of any dot, all the other dots would be moving away from it.

This means that if you were to turn the clock of our universe backwards, at some point in the past all the galaxies would come together at a common center.

It was this remarkable discovery that led to the concept of how our universe began as a solid ball of matter and energy, which in the far distant past exploded forming all the stars and galaxies, and has been moving outward away from its common center ever since.

It was from this concept that the phrase "BIG BANG THEORY," was coined by an astronomer Fred Hoyle to actually DISCREDIT the theory when he said:

Astronomer Fred Hoyle  
"The **BIG BANG** theory requires a recent origin of the Universe that openly invites the concept of creation." (A concept he felt science could not take seriously.)

Thus the phrase BIG BANG was coined in a disparaging way. For to conclude that the Universe had a beginning, it would of necessity follow there had to be a beginner who brought about it's creation.

For myself I must admit I never liked the so called "BIG BANG" theory. Because in my mind I had wrongly assumed that it was based on a concept that this initial explosion was a completely random haphazard event that just by chance happened to form the sun, planets, stars, and galaxies,

But now as we've studied into it more closely I find that the expanding universe concept, is not only reasonable and substantiated by scientific evidence, - but it supports completely the biblical account that the heavens had a beginning. And **IF** the heavens had a beginning, there had to be a beginner.

#### Heavens scene

For we recall the self evident truth, "**That every effect must have a cause.**"

And logic tells us that an **effect cannot be greater than its cause.**

Therefore we must logically deduce that a **supernatural being outside the universe** is the only one that could have created it.

And this is exactly what Gen. 1:1 tells us,

Gen 1:1  
In the **beginning God** created the heaven and the earth.

The heavens didn't always exist. At some time in the far distant past, God **created** the heavens.

Thus when you read or hear of the "Big Bang," don't think of it as something haphazard. For the latest most widely accepted "Big Bang" models produced by astronomers describe NOT a random explosion, which could never have produced the galaxies we observe, but a precisely controlled beginning for the universe.

All observations point to an incredibly finely-tuned, carefully orchestrated chain of events that could lead to our solar systems support for intelligent life.

As famed Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking said:

Theoretical Physicist Stephen Hawking:

"The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the big bang are enormous... I think clearly there are religious implications whenever you start to discuss the origins of the universe. "

"If the rate of expansion one second after the big bang had been smaller by even one part in a hundred thousand million million, the universe would have recollapsed before it ever reached its present state."  
(Continued)

Physicist Edward Kolb of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory:

“It turns out that constants of nature, such as the strength of gravity, have exactly the values that allow stars and planets to form...The universe, it seems is fine-tuned to let life and consciousness flower.”

In referring to Hubble’s Law of the expanding Universe

Famed Astronomer Robert Jastrow Says:

“The Hubble Law is one of the great discoveries in science: it is one of the main supports of the scientific story of Genesis.

When Hubble’s Discoveries were first promulgated, there were some scientists who because of their theological biases did not accept the idea of a beginning for the universe; but to the credit of most, when the evidence became overwhelming, their desire for truth won them over to what was for them a new way of thinking.

Thus this century ends with a complete turnaround of science, from a belief in a universe that always existed, - to a belief in a universe that had a beginning.

Corroborating what Heb. 11:3 tells us:

Heb 11:3 (NIV)

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Unlike other religions, the Bible teaches that the universe did not always exist. In this century, science has come to agree.

There’s another evidence that I found exciting to prove the universe is not eternal, but had to have a beginning. It involves the very existence of certain atoms which shows that the elements themselves cannot be infinite or eternal in age.

Science historian Owen Gingerich explains:

“If the atoms were infinitely old, then radioactive uranium and thorium would have turned to lead. Their very existence tells that they were formed at a finite time past.”

In other words radioactive elements like Uranium are in a continual state of decay. It’s radioactive emissions are continually taking place until gradually over long periods of time it turns to lead. This in itself proves that the universe could not have always existed. If it was we would have no radioactive elements left. Thus the universe must have had a beginning.

I like the thought expressed by:

Allan Sandage, often considered today’s foremost astronomer:

“We can’t understand the universe in any clear way without the supernatural.”



In a similar vain Albert Einstein the famous physicist wrote”

Albert Einstein

“The harmony of natural law reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.”

Our next Astronomers quotation begins to bring us to what the purpose for this vastness of creation is. Which is to be a home to dwell in.

(On photo of the earth)

NASA Astronomer John O’Keefe

...”to the astronomer, the Earth is a very sheltered and protected place. There is a marvelous picture from Apollo 8 of the blue and cloud wrapped Earth, seen just at the horizon of the black cratered, torn and smashed lunar landscape. The contrast would not be lost on any creature; the thought God loves those people cannot be resisted.”

(Continued)

NASA Astronomer John O’Keefe – (Continued)

“We are, by astronomical standards, a pampered, cherished group of creatures... If the Universe had not been made with the most exacting precision we could never have come into existence. It is my view that these circumstances indicate the Universe was created for man to live in.”

The Universe was created for man to live in! This is what Isa 45:18 tells us:

Isa 45:18 (NAS)

18 For thus says the LORD who created the heavens, He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, But formed it to be inhabited, "I am the LORD, and there is none else.

The LORD created the heavens and the earth! He formed it to be inhabited!

Notice how Isa. 40 brings out a similar thought.

Isa 40:10,12,15,

“Behold the LORD God...Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,”

Heavens

“and meted out heaven with the span,”

Scene with Sand

“and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure,”

Mountains

“and weighed the mountains in scales,”

Hills

“and the hills in a balance.”...

Entire earth Map

“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance.”

Entire earth globe in space

“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers;”

Heavens

“who stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreads them out as a tent to dwell in.”

Hubble Deep Space Shot

Notice God spreads out the heavens as a tent to dwell in!

As a tent to dwell in!

This includes all the heavens! It includes those we saw contained in the size of a grain of sand held at arms length where we saw these myriads of Galaxies The Universe that God created contains 100 billion of these galaxies, each containing 100 billion stars, spread out over 20 billion light years.

God calls each star by name. He keeps them under perfect control, all for the purpose of being **“a tent to dwell in.”**

We bow in adoration echoing the words of the Psalmist:

Ps 8:3-9

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars,  
which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him?

Like the Psalmist, when we consider the vastness of the heavens, and our being like dust on the balance scale, we may be inclined to wonder, could God be interested in little tiny insignificant me.

Brethren, from one standpoint it might appear as if we are next to nothing compared to the vastness of the Universe. But from another standpoint the universe we've been observing is rather insignificant compared to you as an individual.

Heavens scene

The stars in all their magnificent brilliance are glorious to behold, but they are merely dead material matter. They cannot love, they cannot praise, they cannot honor, they have no mind or body with which to serve their creator.

To which of the stars could God say, "My son give me thine heart!"

To which of the stars could God say, "He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of mine eye."

To which of the stars could God say as he says of the Church, "This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it."

No, though we may be small in stature, may we never feel inconsequential. The New Creature mind developing within you if rightfully developed, will soon rise to heights that will surpass this entire universe.

What a glorious privilege God has called us to. To sit with him upon his throne to assist in blessing mankind and untold countless future creations for all eternity to come.

### New Heavens scene of deep space

For as we behold the vastness of his creation, and recall that God created nothing in vain, we believe we can rightly assume that the purpose for all these countless billions of stars, is so that they can provide the life sustaining sun light and energy for future creations of intelligent beings on the planets like earth that circle them.

God had no need to create the universe or us in order to sustain His existence, but it pleased Him to do so. Thus as we recognize that all intelligent life is a blessing, we believe the very loving nature of our God is pleased to create countless other intelligent beings so they too can experience the blessings of life.

So what we are beholding are the suns that will warm the hearts of future children of God, that you, if faithful, will have the privilege of bringing into existence.

But you know as glorious as it is to contemplate these heavens, there's even a greater heaven.

For we read in Deut. 10:14:

#### Deut 10:14 (KJV)

14 Behold, the heaven and the **heaven of heavens** is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

The first heaven in this scripture is referring to the material heavens we've been beholding, the future home of other fleshly intelligent beings. The Heaven of Heavens is referring to the Heaven beyond. The heaven in which the Very Throne of God and our Lord Jesus exists. The home were all spiritual beings reside.

We like to think that in this heaven there is a spiritual equivalent to every aspect of this earth that brings delight to the human family. Whether it's music, singing, flowers, friendships, emotions, scenes of grandeur, or what have you. The spiritual equivalent of these will be there, --- only they will be surpassed a thousand times over.

Deep Space

The next time your inclined to become a bit overly concerned about some small insignificant trifle, try to remember, it's really insignificant in the light of eternity.

Try to reflect on the awesome wonder that God has shared with us His glorious attributes, and loving plan, that will bless not just a few, but everyone who has ever lived. And will continue through out eternity in bringing the gift of life to countless others in this boundless universe that was not created in vain.

1 Chr 29:11

11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.