

The Heavens Declare His Glory

By Jane Titrud

The Bible says, *“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world”* (Psalm 19:1-4 NASB). It also tells us that *“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse”* (Romans 1:18-20).

Before becoming a Christian and having the eyes of my heart transformed by the Word of God and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, however, I could not even see that God existed let alone discern His attributes merely by looking at the heavens. I am not excusing my guilt—only saying that I was blind to these things in my unbelief.

As a biology major in college, I was taught to see the origin of life and the universe through the eyes of evolution. *Naturalistic* science is the measure of truth in that frame of reference, and this seems to imply something entirely different than what the Bible says. *Naturalistic* science rules out the existence of God by definition because it leaves no room for *supernatural* explanations. Hence, when I looked at the heavens, I saw nothing there that spoke to me about God—indeed, I saw just the opposite.

In the days of my unbelief, I saw vast distances in the heavens that could only be measured in terms of light years rather than the six literal days of creation as recorded in Genesis. Hence, I assumed the universe was more on the order of billions of years old rather than the few thousand years documented in the Bible. I saw an expanding universe that seemed to confirm the Big Bang Theory, natural laws governing and explaining the operation of everything, and the planet earth in a very insignificant place in the overall scheme of things. So I ordered my entire worldview accordingly.

It was not that I adopted evolutionary thinking in order to justify some sort of evil lifestyle, which some might be quick to think. I believed in right and wrong. It was just that morality to me was basically a matter of common sense. Bad choices in life can have ugly consequences. Like most people, I had made some “mistakes,” but I thought that I was basically good. Believing in God, therefore, not only seemed unscientific to me but altogether unnecessary. I was not very happy. But, whenever I felt sad or lonely, I simply read my science books. It used to bring me comfort to think that any problems I had here on this earth were insignificant when compared to the vastness of the universe.

Today I shudder at the thought that God could so easily have left me in that state, but He didn't. In His mercy, He had a co-worker witness to me about the truth. Interestingly enough, this person did not argue against my views about evolution. He said he did not really know how to answer the questions I had along those lines anyway. Instead, he picked up on a statement I had made about people being basically good and confidently denied it. He said that, contrary to being good, we are all sinners by nature. Then, like the proverbial light bulb switching on, this suddenly made more sense to me than what I had previously come to believe. In truth, people did not always treat me right. Some had even been rather cruel, dishonest, unloving, selfish, etc. Then, almost in the same instant, I also came to realize that I was just as bad. I was guilty of some of those same things myself. My “mistakes” were sins.

To make a long story short, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior shortly thereafter, and He changed my life. God immediately directed me to read His Word so that I could understand the gospel. However, I still did not know how to deal with the subject of evolution. Science was important to me, and I could not pretend otherwise. Yet, that left me with a fair amount of inner turmoil.

For a time, I became a theistic evolutionist in order to resolve the remaining tension within. I now know that this was ultimately wrong, but it did serve as a stepping stone to the radical change that needed to take place in my mind. God was still at work in me. I faithfully read His Word as much as I could and

came to love Jesus deeply. I also heard faithful Christians make repeated statements about how the testimony of the Bible and evolution do not mix. I just did not know how to deal with this situation.

Then, one day, God clearly showed me through His Word that Jesus Christ was the Creator. I read, “*All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being*” (John 1: 3). And again, “*For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together*” (Colossians 1:16, 17).

Hence, I came to realize that I had to deal with my beliefs about evolution if I was to fully accept Him as He was and continue to grow in faith. This led to an intense crisis intellectually. I can’t begin to describe how hard it was for me to deal with this. It about tore my mind apart. But my heart knew the answer. By this time I was totally in love with Jesus, and—praise God—*love won!* I may not have understood everything about the universe, but I knew *Him!* *He* was real! *His Word* was the answer to the unknown. *He* was the Creator! It was all about *Him!* Praise God! The biggest crisis of my life was over!

A lot of people helped me over the next several years to cleanse my mind from the brainwashing effects of evolutionary teaching. Creation scientists were especially helpful in this regard. I learned that I did not have to give up science in order to believe in God and His Word. Rather, I came to understand that “*the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge*” (Proverbs 1:7a). In other words, proper thinking requires a proper foundation of truth, and science is not the ultimate measure of truth it is purported to be. Science itself is a product of human reasoning and, as such, begins with certain assumptions. In the case of origins, for example, *naturalistic* science assumes that there is no God. But this assumption is not based upon any sort of authoritative knowledge. It is merely a choice. The outcome naturally favors an evolutionary scenario rather than creation because creation demands a Creator. Nevertheless, accepting the authoritative, infallible Word of the Creator as recorded in the Bible leads to a completely different conclusion.

Today I am much better equipped to understand what the Bible says in Romans 1:20 about the creation clearly showing the invisible attributes of God—namely, His eternal power and divine nature. I clearly see the heavens confirming that the God of all creation is infinite in nature, all powerful, and outside the realm of both time and space. We live in a universe that stretches beyond the limits of our imagination when it comes to the distances involved and the amount of energy contained therein.

One does not have to look very far at all to realize that God is powerful. All matter is basically just organized energy. Yet, a lot of power is locked up in that organization. Think of the amount of energy released from the small amount of atoms that are split apart during an explosion of an atomic bomb. During World War II, this was enough to destroy a major city. We proved that twice. Now ponder the amount of energy locked up in all the atoms in the universe. It is virtually unfathomable, just like God.

The sun is the most powerful body in our immediate frame of reference. Yet, God created myriads of suns. We call them “stars,” and some of them are many times larger and brighter than our sun. The stars, moreover, tend to be gathered together in groups, clusters, and galaxies. Galaxies, in turn, also tend to be grouped into clusters. On the grand scale of the universe, this clustering pattern appears as a gigantic web-like structure involving filaments and voids. In other words, everywhere one looks there is order in the universe as well as power—not random chaos. This confirms what the Bible says about God being a God of order (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Laws also appear to govern the workings of the heavens just as they do here on earth. This reflects the fact that God “*upholds all things by the word of His power*” (Hebrews 1:3b). The universe itself may indeed be expanding, as many scientists believe, but this does not automatically confirm the “Big Bang Theory.” There are Scriptures that can account for such a phenomenon. Isaiah, for instance, tells us that “*it is He who sits above the vault of the earth... Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in*” (Isaiah 40:22).

Explaining how light from distant stars would have had time to reach us here on earth if everything were merely created a few thousand years ago might seem problematic. Some estimates put the farthest

known reaches of the universe at over 15 billion light years away. Moreover, these distances seem real. Even the closest stars to us are light years away. Yet, the problem may only be that we are trying to explain a miracle in terms of natural law. If God was able to create the sun, moon, and stars all in one day, He could certainly see that the light from each of them made it to earth on schedule. All of these heavenly bodies were created to immediately shed light upon the earth (Genesis 1:14-18).

As for the earth being in a rather insignificant place in the universe, this is not really a problem either. It would mean that God sent His Son Jesus Christ to a seemingly unimportant planet. Yet, the Son of God was also born in a tiny little town, in a stable of all things, and placed in a lowly manger. His mother and Joseph were poor and humble people. Plus, the Bible says that His earthly body had no form or particular majesty that would cause people to look upon Him differently than anyone else (Isaiah 53:2). This was just God's way. People are what make this planet important to God. He loves us. Those who assume that God would have exalted the earth to a unique place in the heavens if this were truly His special domain of influence are simply mistaken.

What about the claim that God created the sun, moon, and stars all in one day (Genesis 1:14-19)? Isn't this a bizarre idea to say the least? Why would God even do such a thing? Well, I see in the Scriptures that the sun is often figuratively likened to God, the LORD, or the Son of God (Psalm 84:11; Isaiah 60:1-3; Luke 1:78-79). The Bible similarly compares Believers to the stars or individual lights in the world (Daniel 12:3; Philippians 2:15). Plus, the moon has natural properties that are comparable to the present state of the Church. There is only one moon that dominates our night skies, just as the Church is only one Body. Plus, neither of these has any light of its own but rather each rules over earthly darkness by reflecting light. The moon reflects the light of the *sun*, while the Church reflects the light of the *Son*.

Three important events that correspond to these symbols also happen to have occurred in close proximity to each other with respect to time: (1.) the revelation of the Son of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus [the sun/Son revealed], (2.) individual Believers were first indwelt with the Holy Spirit to serve as lights in this darkened world [the stars/individual Believers first produce light], and (3.) the Church was established as the Body of Christ [creation of the moon/Church]. Creating the sun, moon, and stars all on one day (Genesis 1:14-19) may thus have been a figurative representation of these three great events that would occur in close proximity in the future. Figurative representations of future events and/or aspects of Christ or salvation are common in Genesis. They are a form of Bible prophecy.

Consider also that when Jesus was dying on the cross, the light of the sun was obscured (Luke 23:44, 45). Later, when the physical sun went down in the evening, this corresponded to time of His burial. At the same time, the moon rose full to give light to the earth. We know this because His death occurred on Passover, which is always associated with a full moon. Some say the moon at this particular time may have even been a "blood moon"—the result of a lunar eclipse. If so, then this particular full moon could easily have been a visual representation of the birth of the Church washed in the blood of the Lamb. What is more, if the timing of this observation is correct, then the sun would likely have gone down within the constellation of Aries the Ram from our vantage point on earth, signifying the death of the Lamb of God. Truly then, the sun, moon, and stars would each have abundantly fulfilled the purpose of their creation as signs in the heavens on the Day of Christ's death (Genesis 1:14).

Indeed, whenever the sun goes down and the moon rises, the reflected light from the moon tells us that the sun is still there and is coming back. Is this not the message of the LORD'S resurrection and His coming again repeated almost daily in the night skies? When the Church properly reflects the light of the Son, this too tells the world that the Son of God is alive and well and that He is coming back! This takes me back to Psalm 19:2: *"Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge."*

Praise the LORD! Praise Him for who He is and what He has done! The heavens truly declare His glory! They tell us repeatedly of His manifold wisdom and power and majesty. They even reflect the gospel message of His death, resurrection, and imminent return!

I know that I am thankful that He looked upon this insignificant world with love and mercy and sent His Son to die for me, as is every true Believer. All praise and glory be unto Him forever! Amen.