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IN SIX DAYS: DAY FOUR

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Is it irrational to store ice cream behind your sofa? Consider this story:

When I was growing up, there was a family in my church with children about the ages of me and my brothers. As with most families, sometimes the mom and dad would leave the oldest sibling in charge while the parents left the house. Apparently during one of these excursions the boys got the notion to get into the ice cream; but mom and dad came back early and so one of the boys quickly hid the ice cream behind the sofa. I'll leave the results to your imagination!

The boys did something extremely unwise based on their belief that they would get into trouble if they were caught eating the ice cream. They decided to be clever instead of owning up to the facts. They ended up getting into trouble anyway, but I'm sure that they got into more trouble for trying to hide it and making a big mess in the process!

What does that story have to do with today's sermon? I guess my point is that *we need to admit the truth and not try to hide it*. We generate more problems when we hide the truth. Consider Romans 1:18-20:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth [that is, they suppress the truth or hide it] in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

In other words, as we study our world and universe, we can clearly see the power of God; it is only by suppressing the truth, or hiding it, that we can deny the existence of the Almighty. We have seen evidence already of God's great power and wisdom in the design of His creation thus far. By His own account, He brought the universe into existence with His word. We have examined His account of the creation of time, space, and matter, how His Spirit energized matter, how He formed light and separated it from darkness, how He made the atmosphere and hydrosphere, how He made the lithosphere (dry land) and biosphere (plant life). And all of this He pronounced "good." There was no fault, no decay, no improvement needed or even possible.

Let us continue with the fourth day:

14 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:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

On the fourth day, then, God created the stars and the other planets, what we might call the "astrosphere" (this is not to say that it is spherical; we simply can't tell the shape because it is so

impossibly large). As with everything else, He had a purpose in doing so: He created the heavenly bodies for the sake of the inhabitants of the earth! This is of course totally contrary to the atheistic assumption that the universe is here by random chance and that we are here by random chance. There is nothing random about any of this, though. There is purpose and order in creation. We take it for granted that certain stars will be visible during certain seasons; we take our calendar for granted, but it is linked to the apparent motion of the stars. We take for granted the twenty-four-hour days and the four seasons and the length of the year; but these things are functions of the way God designed the universe for His glory and our benefit. (Example: Ancient Egyptians and the knowledge of the flood season of the Nile based on the stars).

Just think for a minute about how important time is to us. What if we had no reliable way to measure time? What if there were no uniformity to the earth's rotation, or orbit of the sun, or place in the galaxy? No, all that we see in the stars shows order and purpose and design.

16 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.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 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.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

The greater and lesser lights are unquestionably the sun and the moon. Let's talk about these for just a minute. The sun is an incredible mass, a furnace burning in the cold of space. In fact, it gives off so much radiation, that even with the earth's atmosphere to diffuse much of it, we "would have a higher probability of being killed just from the sun's raw energy" without the production of melanin in our skin.¹ In fact, on Mars, which is much, much farther from the sun than we are, and has virtually no atmosphere, even salt crystals are affected by the sun's radiation. NASA scientist Andrew Schueberger listed 13 separate factors on Mars that could kill earth microbes.² The sun is so big that if you could go straight through the center from one side to the other at one hundred miles per hour, it would take you nearly a full year.³ Being caught for speeding would be the least of your concerns, though--the surface temperature is over 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit!

You've perhaps heard that the sun is "just another star." The truth is that the sun is not a typical star at all! It is unique. First of all, two thirds of all stars are in star systems with two or more stars, whereas the sun is alone in our solar system. It might sound like it would be interesting or fun to have a binary system with two suns, but the gravitational shifts and the radiation would very likely destroy life on earth. Not only that, but the sun has a fairly constant output of heat and light in the optimal range for us, and we are the optimal distance from it. Most stars vary greatly in their output of heat and light, from 10% to 150,000% output.⁴ We would freeze and then fry and then freeze again! But there is more. The vast majority of stars output little of their energy in the form of visible light and instead output large amounts of lethal radiation in the form of X-rays and gamma rays. "Furthermore, the vast

1 Randy Guliuzza, "Melanin, the Sunblock That's Just Skin Deep." *Acts and Facts*, August 2009, 10.

2 J. Hsu, "Scarce Shelter on Mars." *Astrobiology Magazine News*. Posted on astrobio.net June 4, 2009. Found in "Atmospheres: A Narrow Zone for Life" by David F. Coppedge in *Acts and Facts*, August 2009, 18.

3 J. Timothy Unruh, "The Greater Light to Rule the Day--Ladies and Gentlemen--the Sun!" Available at <http://www.icr.org/article/392/>.

4 Ibid.

majority of stars are smaller, cooler, dimmer, and less massive than the Sun.”⁵ Take all this together and we see that the sun is a star uniquely suited for life on earth, and that the earth is perfectly positioned in relation to it. This is God’s grand design of the sun.

The origin of the moon is a mystery to those who believe the universe is the product of random chance. Did the moon originate at the same time as the earth, did it somehow break off from the earth, or did a wandering piece of rock get captured by the earth’s gravitational pull? Evolutionary cosmologists have no good answer. The suggestions I just mentioned have been put forth as possibilities, but each have been found unsatisfactory. Not only that, but the moon today is receding from the earth about 4 cm, or 1.5 inches, per year. In the past, it was much closer than it is now, which would have caused massive tidal interactions just a few millions of years ago. Not only that, but 1.5 billion years ago, the moon would have been touching the earth, and that’s far shorter than the 4.5 billion years of the earth’s supposed existence.

We also see God’s design in the moon. The moon reflects the sun’s light, giving us beautiful, pale light at night. Because it is the perfect size and distance between us and the sun (it is 400 times smaller than the sun, but 400 times closer to us), and because the angle of its orbit is just right, we can occasionally observe a total eclipse, which gives scientists a rare opportunity to make measurements and observations that they would otherwise have no way of making. If the moon were a different size or in a different position, this would not be possible; but as it is, we can on rare occasions get a view of the sun’s chromosphere and corona, make measurements of how the sun’s gravitational pull affects light from distant stars, and even see the effects of the sun’s magnetic field.⁶ And of course the moon is essential for the tides.

Not only in this, but God gave us a period of darkness day by day. We need the darkness. The earth needs a period of warming and cooling daily. Can you imagine what the world would be like if the earth spun faster or slower, making the days longer or shorter? The heating and cooling cycles would be out of balance. God gave us daytime and night time, in proper proportion.

God also made the stars. Here we need to pause for a moment. Evolutionary cosmologists assure us that stars are formed from clouds of gases dispersed after the Big Bang. The theory is that the gravitational pull of the dust particles in these enormous clouds of dust caused the dust to compact together, and then the immense pressures of the gases so compacted gave birth to the star. This model of a star’s birth actually seems to work IF something else acts on the cloud of gas to compress it to the point where gravity takes over. The laws of physics relating to gases show that gases would actually disperse if left to themselves. Something has to press them together, and a good mechanism for this has not been found.

We do come to a problem of light travel time here, though. This is a problem for all of science, not just for those who believe in a recent creation.⁷ Here is the problem in short: if God created the universe just a few thousand years ago, but some stars and galaxies are so far distant that it would take millions of years for the light from them to travel to us, how can we see the light from those stars? The easy answer is, God made the light visible to us on the fourth day of creation. Remember, the trees and the rocks had the appearance of age, even on the very day they were created. God intended for the world to

5 Ibid.

6 Danny Faulkner, “The Angular Size of the Moon and Other Planetary Satellites: An Argument for Design.” *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, 35(1) (June 1998). Available at <http://www.creationresearch.org/crsq/articles/35/astrodesign.html>.

7 See “Light-travel Time: A Problem for the Big Bang” by Robert Newton in *Creation* 25(4) (September 2003): 48-49. Available at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v25/i4/lighttravel.asp>.

have the light of stars on the fourth day, and He made it so.

However, what are we to think about phenomena we observe occurring in space, such as a star that has exploded? The light from the explosion would have had to have been “in transit” to earth, as it were, before God even created it, right? Well, my answer is *maybe*. I think the real problem is that we do not yet understand light travel and stellar distances as well as we think we do. There is a secular scientist named Halton Arp--not a Christian and certainly not a creationist--who has brought into question the method that astronomers use to measure stellar distances. The method is by calculating the “red shift” of light waves emitted by stars as the light travels to us. The further the light is “shifted,” that is, that the wavelengths are longer by the time they reach us than they were at the time of emission from the star, the further the light has traveled through expanding space or the faster the star is moving away from us. This is used as a means of calculating distance. But what Halton Arp has found is that some quasars which are visibly linked to a nearby galaxy have “discordant” redshift--that is, even though they are clearly linked, the redshift shows that the quasar is much, much farther from us. In the case of the galaxy NGC 4319 and quasar Markarian 205, the galaxy is supposed to be 107 million light years away, but the quasar that is linked to it is 1.2 billion light years away according to the measurement of red shift. How can this be? It's a mystery cosmologists avoid.^{8, 9}

We need to stand strongly on the foundation of God's Word. The biblical record is clear that God made the sun, the moon, and the stars. How He accomplished that is beyond us. How we can see the light from distant stars has to be seen as a product of His handiwork.

What it tells us, though, is that within the field of astronomy there is great work to do, especially for those who believe that God created the universe. We should accept the Bible as truth, and then pursue a greater understanding through science.

God gave us heavenly bodies to help us reckon times and seasons; and they do. God gave us a greater light to rule the day, and it does. God gave us a lesser light to rule the night, and it does. The earth is in an ideal and so far as we know unique position to support life in relation to these other heavenly bodies. Nothing was left to chance. All these work together to declare God's power, glory, majesty, and wisdom.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (Ps. 19:1)

8 Andrew Snelling, “Galaxy-Quasar ‘Connection’ Defies Explanation.” *Technical Journal* 11:(3) (December 1997): 254-255. Available at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/TJ/v11/i3/quasar.asp>.

9 Halton Arp's book *Seeing Red* (Montreal: Aperia, 1999) is summarized and reviewed by Michael Oard in “Doppler Toppler?” *Technical Journal* 14(3) (December 2000): 39-45. Available at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/tj/v14/i3/doppler.asp>.