

Stars

by Bill Crews

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). The making of “the two great lights” (as they appear unto us), the sun and the moon, is referred to in verse 16. The sun “rules the day,” and the moon “rules the night.” Verse 16 also says, “He made the stars also.” Psalms 8:3 says, “When I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.” (Compare Jer. 31:35.) Job was asked by Jehovah: “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Who determined the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who stretched the line upon it? Whereupon were the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the cornerstone thereof, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7)

Our sun is a star that is about 93,000,000 miles from the earth. (Some 864,000 miles in diameter, it is larger than some stars and much smaller than others.) The next nearest star is 275,000 times that far from the earth, or 4 1/3 light years away (a light year is the distance traversed by light over the span of one year, and light travels at the incredible speed of 186,000 miles per second; one light year is almost 6 trillion miles). According to astronomers, our galaxy (the Milky Way galaxy) contains some 100 billion stars, and there are other galaxies. How many? Astronomers have estimated several hundred thousand to one billion, or even more. These numbers seem beyond our comprehension, just as the amount of space they occupy is even more beyond our comprehension. How many stars can we see with the naked eye? About 6,000, but no more than 2,000 at any given time of the night. Telescopes and other instruments allow us to see or record or establish hundreds of millions.

Our sun releases two billion times as much energy as the earth receives, and it receives just the right amount. The earth is just the right distance from the sun, neither too close nor too far. We humans who live upon the earth seem to be the only observers of the heavens in the entire universe. All of our research has disclosed no others. We humans are very interested in time and location. How do we determine the time — to the exact fraction of a second? By observing the stars! And how do we determine our exact location upon the earth? By observing the stars! (Without them we become lost; see Acts 27:20.) We have celestial time, and we have celestial navigation. We now have many instruments for measuring time and location, but these are adjusted by the celestial bodies and the observations of the astronomers. Our solar system and our galaxy are a gigantic and precise clock, a design with a Designer.

These are some of the things that came to my mind when, on a recent stay in a state park, my wife and I, with a son, a daughter-in-law and a grandson, walked until we were away from all of the man-made lights and gazed up into the heavens on a very clear night. If you know the stars, you can tell what time it is at any time of the night, you can tell what direction you are moving, you can know just where you are on land or sea, and you can know there is a God as you behold, not a chaos but an intricate and designed cosmos. The Bible explains how it all came to be. The Big Bang theory, or any of the other theories that have been advanced in the past or will be advanced in the future, cannot do so.

In the Bible, a very large number is suggested by appealing to the stars in the heavens (Gen. 15:5, 6; 26:4) or by appealing to the grains of sand on the shores of the seas (Gen. 22:17; 32:12). Both are said to be “innumerable” (Heb. 11:12). When one astronomer was asked to give his estimate as to the number of stars in the universe, he replied that he thought them comparable to all of the grains of sand on all of the shores of all of the seas. “Is not God in

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