

Article of the Month
February, 2022

NASA's New Telescope

On Christmas Day, NASA launched its newest and most sophisticated telescope named "The James Webb Telescope." It was designed to replace and significantly outperform "The Hubble Telescope" which had, indeed, done more than was expected of it, and which has advanced the cause of galactic science exploration dramatically.

We are all aware that science is supposed to work outside of philosophy -- outside of the world of speculative ideas, religion, and preferences (except theses) -- in other words, only with the PROVABLE. So we have no argument with scientists whether or not they personally hold or do not hold values or concepts which the Scriptures promote. It is their job to remain detached and only to work with facts which they can replicate. (The good ones DO this.)

Nevertheless, those scientists who have a secure background in good religious truths have an advantage in being able better to weigh and interpret the facts which present themselves. The combining of science with accurate Biblical scholarship yields the best of all results. But these results are NOT YET provable. They WILL be; but we are not yet there. Our wish for NASA is that, as far as the Lord allows, they may find wonderful lessons from their new telescope. Whatever they learn without prejudice WILL confirm what Scripture has already presented and may well enhance the details which Scripture has not enhanced.

CONJECTURE?

The new telescope is admittedly being launched, among other things, to tell us about our origins. We suspect it will confirm events surrounding "The Big Bang Theory" because that theory seems so very much in harmony with the Genesis record. Origins of the solar systems, however, will not tell us of origins of life.

As these explorations continue, however, we cannot help but be amused with the conjectures and postures of many who are looking for evidences that "intelligent life" exists outside of the earth. It is often their position that, *"Surely you can't think that WE are the only intelligent life in all of that expanse! That is the the boldest expression of self-importance, pride, and lack of logic!"*

But let's examine that. We first want to acknowledge that THERE IS INTELLIGENT life "out there." But it is not a physically-discernible life form. The Scriptures teach plainly that millions of spirit-beings were created before there ever was a physical universe -- let alone before physical intelligent beings (us). So, YES! There IS intelligent life "out

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there." But it will not be discernible by any telescope. Spirit beings exist on a plane beyond the wave-lengths that man has even dreamed of! But THAT is not the aim of the disputers. Their claim is that we are not likely the only physical intelligent life-form. And their aim is to find conditions in which physical life is possible.

That conjecture IS in ignorance of Scriptural teaching. Whether these people attribute intelligent life to "nature" or to a Creator, surely they can acknowledge that there must be a FIRST somewhere! But it seems incalculable to them that WE could be the first! But THAT is, indeed, the Scriptural position. It is the Scriptural position that the earth and its inhabitants are the BEGINNING -- the very first part of a subsequent wide-spread physical intelligent creation at other places and times in the universe.

This is NOT to suggest that we humans are an experiment! Quite to the contrary. The human experience is the first physical-creation experience because God intends to encapsulate the sin experience ONLY among us, and ONLY for a stipulated period. The *PERMISSION OF EVIL* is not a mistake nor a cruelty. It is dealing with an inherent problem in the creation process which MUST be dealt with.

SOMEWHERE and SOME TIME in the creative process it is necessary to teach for all subsequent creations, as well as for the previously created intelligent spiritual creatures, that, while **free moral agency** (liberty or "Free Will") IS a part of creation, its MISUSE will result in extinction. Creation's Creator WILL NOT TOLERATE (long term) any liberty which can possibly harm another creature. He's too great in **power** and **love** to let that happen! And yet, He is too **wise** to create without letting beings have their liberties. But He has no intention of allowing a universe in which harm can come to His creations by misuse of free will. In other words, the "permission of evil" is allowed (for a limited time and place) entirely for the purpose of instructing ALL creatures (previous and future) that "liberty" (Free Moral Agency) will be defined by God -- NOT by His creatures -- and that the penalty for violation of the limitations will be extinction: DEATH. THAT result must be shown VISUALLY so that ALL can learn. And humanity is the group that is VISUALLY SHOWING that result -- the FIRST and the LAST of creation to do so. Death is a just and reasonable penalty for something which would disrupt the universe or harm any individual in it.

Thus, in the remote reaches of eternity, there will be no violations which can or will result in death or harm anywhere in the universe. Man's experience will have insured the absence of evil for the eternity to come. Our experience will be the OBSERVABLE TEACHER for all of creation forever. We human beings have the HONOR of having our current lives and experiences as the eventual examples for all of creation -- including those to come. We are a BEGINNING for the best of reasons. The Apostle Paul's words summarize the idea well: "We are a spectacle unto men and to angels." ALL of the intelligent universe, visible and invisible, will be able to look at man's experience and to realize that violation of perfect Divine Law will bring death -- extinction! THAT lesson NEEDS a group of creatures which HAS EXPERIENCED the results! That's US! How horrible it would be to repeat our experience elsewhere in the universe! That is why we are FIRST.

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We would be sad, indeed, if we left the matter without pointing out that, even though God is using humanity as a teaching race, He has also provided a wonderful way to extract man from the death penalty imposed on him. Thus, in the end, we will have been honored to teach the universe WITHOUT permanently losing our lives! There's a Divine ***justice*** as well as love about that! What a God!

So, we welcome NASA's new explorations. They can only bolster and define the Biblical record. But they will not give the answers which mankind needs for life. Those answers are just about to be proclaimed. We are on the threshold of our ages-old prayers: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth." THEN mankind can INTENSELY explore his earthly environs -- without death, illness, poverty, or ignorance to stop him! And the rest of the habitable universe can start to be inhabited without needing to suffer through the experience.

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