



DISTANT STARLIGHT

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INTRODUCTION

In our last two sessions on theDove, we began to discuss the Seven Days of Creation from a biblical perspective that began with the first two days of the creation account. However, before we continue with the perspective of distant starlight, let's briefly pause for a moment and consider a phrase that we have used on theDove numerous times, and ask the question - - what is the meaning of the phrase "*being biblical?*" From a practical perspective, we could say that being biblical applies to the contents of the Bible and the mindset that underscores the accuracy and certainty of our faith. Additionally, we could also say that the foundation of all truth originates from the Creator and what He has specifically revealed to us through the scriptures. However, as we have been discussing the Seven Days Of Creation, let's consider three viewpoints as applied to the creation account in Genesis as follows:

- **God's capability:**

God has provided a detailed account in Genesis of His creation account that was accomplished over the period of seven calendar days. Although there are some questions on why God took seven days to create the universe, earth, and man, God was also capable of creating everything in one nano-second or one year. However, He used a model of a week (work for six days, and rest for one day for a total of seven days - - see Exodus 20:11). Additionally, God

has provided clear and abundant evidence in the things that are made so His eternal power and Godhead are clearly seen (*"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse - - Romans 1:20"*). Therefore, we are not without excuse to know who the creator is (*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork - - Psalm 19:1-3"*).

- **The written Word of God:**

Hebrews tells us that belief in the creation is a test of faith we must face, (*"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible - - Hebrews 11:3"*). Additionally, without faith, it is impossible to please God (*"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him - - Hebrews 11:6"*).

- **God the creator:**

The secular, non-theistic worldview is in direct opposition to a creator. Humanism, evolution, and modern science are more than willing to provide an alternative to a God who not only created the universe and man, but also holds mankind accountable for his/her destiny (see Genesis 1:1 and John 3:16).

DISTANT STARLIGHT

As previously mentioned in the introduction to Part 1, there is the perspective that if the universe and earth is somewhere between 6-7,000 years old, or even 15,000 years old, there is a significant difference between thousands of years of age and billions of years of age. However, if the universe is only thousands of years old, then how is distant starlight explained when some galaxies and stars are billions and billions of light years away from the earth, but their light is visible to the earth? Moreover, go back and look at Genesis 1:14-19 and notice that the lights in the expanse of the sky were created to indicate seasons, days, and years. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the light from the lights in the expanse of the sky was visible to the first humans on earth. Let's look at some answers to this problem from a biblical and scientific viewpoint (most of the following explanations will require that you *"think outside the box"*).

CREATED VISIBLE LIGHT

Since God was the creator of the universe, He could have easily created the light so it was instantly visible. However, since modern science rejects God as the creator (and also rejects God), this answer is not acceptable to modern science

but can be acceptable to Christians who believe in the Genesis creation account. Remember that God is not limited to natural methods as we are.

SPEED OF LIGHT

It is known that light has been faster in the past. As a result, it is postulated that light was about 5×10 to the eleventh power faster than today.

GRAVITATIONAL TIME DILATION

Due to gravity (and Einstein's Theory of Relativity), we know that gravity is capable of affecting the speed of time (and clocks). As an example, a clock at sea level (Royal Observatory, Greenwich) will run slower than a clock at 5,280-feet (National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado). When this difference in time is applied to millions and billions of light years of distance, it is easy to see how there can be a significant difference of time and how our clocks on earth run significantly slower than the clocks of galaxies billions of light years away (as an example, when dealing with different time zones, consider that a plane can leave Kentucky at 4 pm and arrive in Colorado at 4 pm). Therefore, Einstein's physics tells us that it literally takes no time at all for light to travel from a distant galaxy to the earth as far as the light is concerned and from the earth's perspective.

ANISOTROPHIC SYNCHRONY CONVENTION

Contrary to popular belief, it is possible for light to move instantaneously, even today. So, the amount of time it takes for light to travel from the most distant stars to earth is actually zero - - not only during Day Four of Creation, but today as well. This principle was discovered by Albert Einstein and shows that the light-travel problem is more about underlying assumptions than things we can observe and study with empirical science. Here is a brief overview of Einstein's findings:

- Velocity affects the passage of time, and it affects our measurement of length as well.
- Lengths and time-durations are not absolute but are relative to velocity. This is why Einstein's physics is often referred to as "*relativity*."
- The speed of light in one direction cannot be objectively measured, and so it must be agreed upon by convention. This stands in direct contrast to the round-trip speed of light, which is always constant. However, the round trip speed of light is objectively measurable.
- We are free to choose what the speed of light will be in one direction.
- For the sake of simplicity, many physicists choose to regard the speed of light as being the same in all directions.
- According to Einstein, it is legitimate to choose the speed of light in one direction. Therefore, we may choose the speed of light as being instantaneous when traveling toward the earth, providing the round-trip speed in empty space is always 186,000 miles per second. In this case, the light from distant

stars takes no time at all to reach the earth since the light is traveling toward us.

- This convention could be called the “anisotropic synchrony convention” or ASC because it claims that light travels at different speeds in different directions (anisotropic).
- Interestingly, many of the predictions of the ASC model have already been confirmed.

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