

*Sometimes when I am alone under  
the stars, I look out into space and  
wonder if our works look as small to  
God as His looks Great to us.  
Herbert Clinton Carroll<sup>1</sup>*

### ROBERT JASTROW

*“For the scientist who has lived by his faith  
in the power of reason, the story ends like a  
bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of  
ignorance; he is about to conquer the  
highest peak; as he pulls himself over the  
final rock, he is greeted by a band of  
theologians who have been sitting there for  
centuries.”<sup>2</sup>*

This is a remarkable statement from a noted  
Professional Astronomer and self proclaimed  
agnostic! Jastrow is the founder and director  
of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space  
Studies and author of *Red Giants and White  
Dwarfs and Until the Sun Dies.*

### PSALMS 14:1 (NIV)

*“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”*

## JESUS—THE (BARA) CREATOR—GOD

### Nehemiah 9:6 (NIV)

*“You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest  
heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the  
seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the  
multitudes of heaven worship you.”*

### Isaiah 40:28 (NASB77)

*“Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the  
earth.”*

### John 1:3 (NIV)

*“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made  
that has been made.”*

### Col 1:15-17 (NIV)

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation;  
<sup>16</sup>for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible  
and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or  
authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He  
is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

### Heb 1:2 (NIV)

*“... but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he  
appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the  
universe.”*

### Isaiah 55:1-3 (NIV)

- <sup>1</sup> *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who  
have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.*
- <sup>2</sup> *“Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what  
does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and  
your soul will delight in the richest of fare.*
- <sup>3</sup> *“Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.”*

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<sup>1</sup> My Grandfather, April 6, 1937 – quote from family records.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Jastrow. *God And the Astronomers.* (New York, New York; W.W. Norton & Company,1978), 116.

## GOD— AND ASTRONOMERS?

*“For since the creation of the  
world God’s invisible  
qualities—his eternal power  
and divine nature—have  
been clearly seen, being  
understood from what has  
been made, so that men are  
without excuse.”*

*Romans 1:20 (NIV)*

*“Great are the works of the LORD;  
They are studied by all who delight in  
them.”* *Psalm 111:2 (NASB)*

Astrophotographs of the Andromeda Galaxy, The Great Orion Nebula  
(Widefield) and Gamma Cygnus (Center page) by Jason Warr, (used by  
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<http://www.galaxyphoto.com/>

## YOU ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE!

### THE NUMBER OF STARS

Australian astronomers, in an effort to increase the accuracy of the known number of stars in the visible universe, have determined this quantity to be a staggering 70,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars. Using some of the world's most powerful instruments, they measured the brightness of all the galaxies in a single sector of the sky—then calculated the number of stars they must contain. From this, they proceeded to estimate the number of **VISIBLE** stars in the universe—arriving at the staggering number of 70 sextillion, (that's 7 followed by 22 zeros).

Other astronomers estimate that the universe holds 10 trillion galaxies each having a population of approximately 100 billion stars.<sup>3</sup>

Our sun is only a relatively small speck of dust among this vast array of stars. It takes 4.22 years for the light from the nearest of these 70 sextillion stars (Proxima Centauri) to reach our planet (excluding the Sun, of course), traveling at the speed of light, 299,792,458 m/s (meters per second).

The Bible accurately teaches in such passages as Genesis 22:17, 32:12 and Jeremiah 32:22 that the universe is composed of an almost countless number of stars and that they are as numerous as the grains of sand. The Bible also teaches that man is important to God (the creator of the universe). The Psalmist stated,

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars,*

*which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? Ps. 8:3-4 (RSV).*

In their book, *Rare Earth*, scientists Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee make a case for the earth being in exactly the right

place in the universe to support life. They state that we are precisely placed within a rare "Habitable Zone," outside of which life cannot exist. We are located in this zone with precisely the right population of stars, in precisely the right location within our Galaxy (the Milky Way), and precisely the right distance from the Galaxy center, within the orbit of precisely the perfect star, in precisely the perfect location from that star and with a precisely sized satellite (the moon). Further, they state, "Earth is a rare place indeed. Perhaps the most intriguing finding of this line of research is that Earth is rare as much for its abundant metal content as for its location relative to the sun."

**Most incredibly, you are so important to God that the Bible states that the Creator of this universe did an astonishing thing for you:**

*"...Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant..."*, Phil 2:5b-7a (RSV).

**Think about the implications of this statement. God created the universe, emptied Himself and became a servant, and allowed man to crucify Himself for you; He took your place and died for your sins...**

### HOW TO CORRECT YOUR DELIMINA:

Romans 3:23 states that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Every member of the human race has disobeyed God and we deserve eternal punishment in hell. We have missed the mark of righteousness, which is illustrated in our inability to keep God's commandments.

However, God had a plan for man kind. He sent us His Son, Jesus Christ, in order that we might be forgiven our sins. In John 14:6, Jesus said of himself, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." You need Jesus, who became man and lived among us as described in

<sup>3</sup>Peter D. Ward and Donald Brownlee, *Rare Earth: Why Life Is Uncommon In The Universe*. (New York, New York; Copernicus, 2000), 33.

John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."

Not all religions lead to the same god. Speaking of Jesus Christ, Acts 4:12 states: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

<sup>4</sup>Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit..." Christ died on the cross for you!

According to Romans 10:9, God raised Jesus from the dead if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from death, you will be saved from the eternal punishment that you deserve in hell.

**"...because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."** You are, remember, "...without excuse." **Ro. 6:23** teaches we deserve *death* for our sin.

Will you turn away from your sin and trust Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of your life?

If so, John 1:12 promises, "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God..."

Sample prayer for salvation: Dear God: Thank you for loving me so much that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins taking my rightful place and for raising him from the dead. I know, I have sinned and need your forgiveness. I am turning from my sins and toward you and I accept Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

Romans 10:13 promises that, "...every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." That's all there is to it!

Respond and you will never stand before God "without excuse," because Jesus paid the price for your salvation (**I Corinthians 6:20; 7:23**)! Finally, as a new Christian you should join a Bible Believing Church (**Hebrews 10:25**) and be Baptized into the fellowship of Believers (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 10:48; Gal 3:24**).

Hugh Ross, *Genesis One: A Scientific Perspective*. (Pasadena, CA; Reasons to Believe, 1983), 1.