

God's Outrageous Universe

Gravity, The Central Attraction

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

January 23, 2010

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What's in a Name? Giving a name does not mean we know what we are naming only that it exists and that it has attributes? Eg. Dark Energy, Dark Matter, Gravity and God.

The Names of God in the Bible – What an amazing thing for the Creator of the universe to give us names with which to praise him. The God of the Bible establishes that He is both God Almighty (God of gods) and Jehova God (or God who keeps his promises to his people). God goes on to reveal Himself through Jesus Christ and as Holy Spirit. Consider how God has revealed himself in human history and how that has changed our world view as Christians.

Consider how our understanding of Gravity has evolved through time and how it has changed our world view of reality. Think how it has changed our view of Heaven. Acts 1: 1-10 (Jesus “taken up before their very eyes.”)

Gravity through history (Where is God in the Picture?)

Here is my view for the purpose of faith and science analogy but a better short and understandable history with illustrations and picture of the key ideas and people can be found at this site: <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~kallos/gravity.htm>

- Genesis Story (Time of Moses – 1500 to 1200 BC): God creates up and down? Genesis 1:6-10 (Heaven and sky above and earth below) Up and down is a universal experience – it just is part of God's creation.
- Aristotle (384-322BC): Objects move up or down according to their natural place. The Earth is the center of the universe. Heavenly motions are

perfect fixed spheres. First attempt to why we have the universal experience of up and down – its connected to the Earth.

- Copernicus (1473-1543) : The planets move in perfect spheres around the Sun. These perfect spheres are evidence of God's perfection in creation and this new mathematically simpler model reveals the glory of God. It is not just the Church but creation that can tell us about God.
- Galileo (1564-1642): Experiment and testing finds objects don't fall in proportion to their weight (Aristotle got it wrong for almost 2000 years). We can and should put God's creation to hypothesis and testing understand it. Question authority!
- Kepler (1571-1630): The perfect circles of planetary orbits are ellipses and the orbits and periods follow specific rules called Keplers Laws. Evidence of God's perfection in design is undone. Kepler deeply troubled.
- Newton (1643-1727): There is a simple universal law of gravity and laws of force and motion that defines the motion of all objects on earth and in the heavens. Clock-work universe become the new world view. God is holding it all together and acting directly through the force of gravity.
- Einstein (1879-1955): Gravity only appears to be a force – it is the warping of space-time by mass. God's design is more grand and majestic but also more mysterious. The mathematics is now beyond most scientists. Where is God now?
- Scientists (2011) What is gravity???? What is its speed of interaction???? Has it always been as it is today????

By Science – we have no idea what gravity is just better and better descriptions of it's nature. But it is the central attractor of all matter (visible and dark matter) in the universe. It is just right to cause the formation of stars, galaxies, and planets. If gravity were a stronger attractor the universe would have collapsed long before life could come into existence and evolve. If gravity were weaker, stars would never have formed, elements beyond helium and lithium would not exist and again life would not exist.

By Faith - we come to see gravity as one of God's foundations upon which heaven and earth exist. It is the central essential attractor out of which stars are born, grow old, and die to be reborn. This is the process from which heavy elements come into existence. Gravity is the reason that rocky planets are formed and circle a life sustaining Sun. It is the reason for up and down so water can condense into oceans, life can form and man has a place to stand in a garden that is "very good."

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<http://www.godsoutrageousuniverse.org/>