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INTRODUCTION

By editors *Jonathan Sarfati* and *Gary Bates*

One of the prevailing myths of our Western culture is that evolution from ‘goo to you via the zoo’ is a scientific fact, along with its prerequisite, billions of years of earth history. The corollary is that no reputable scientist can be a creationist. While the evolutionary establishment rejects any sort of creation or design, this applies especially to *biblical* creation. That is, by the triune Creator God of the Bible, and according to the *time frame* and *order* of creative events in Genesis. This means creation in six normal-length days about 6,000 years ago, followed by Adam’s Fall that resulted on a curse on all creation, and about 1500 years later, a global flood.

So, most people are surprised to learn that the founders of modern science believed just that. Indeed, science grew up in a biblical framework, which provided both the assumptions needed for science to work at all, and the motivation to practice science (see appendix, pg 219).

But what about scientists *today*? The purpose of this book is to simply highlight that real practising scientists, can, and do believe in biblical creation. Science is not an obstacle to their faith—quite the opposite. This highlights the fact that atheists reject the idea of a transcendent Creator God on a philosophical basis, rather than having anything to do with the ‘science’.

Here again, the myth that “no real scientist believes in creation” shows no resemblance to reality. In fact, there are tens of thousands of scientists in the world who are biblical creationists. Their output and research is a refutation of the common claim that evolution is vital for science. But how can people learn about them?

For over 35 years, the flagship publication of *Creation Ministries International* has been its quarterly *Creation* magazine. It has been undermining evolutionary dogma and presenting biblical truth, extending into well over 100 countries. In particular, one of the most popular features in every issue is an interview with an eminent scientist who rejects evolution and believes the Bible. This has been most helpful, especially in families with young ones keen on science. They can see for themselves that one can be a productive and intelligent scientist without rejecting the Bible.

This book is a selection of 30 of these *Creation* magazine interviews, from a wide range of the sciences, including but not limited to biology and geology. In many cases, we needed to update the information to make it as fresh as possible for the time of writing (2014).

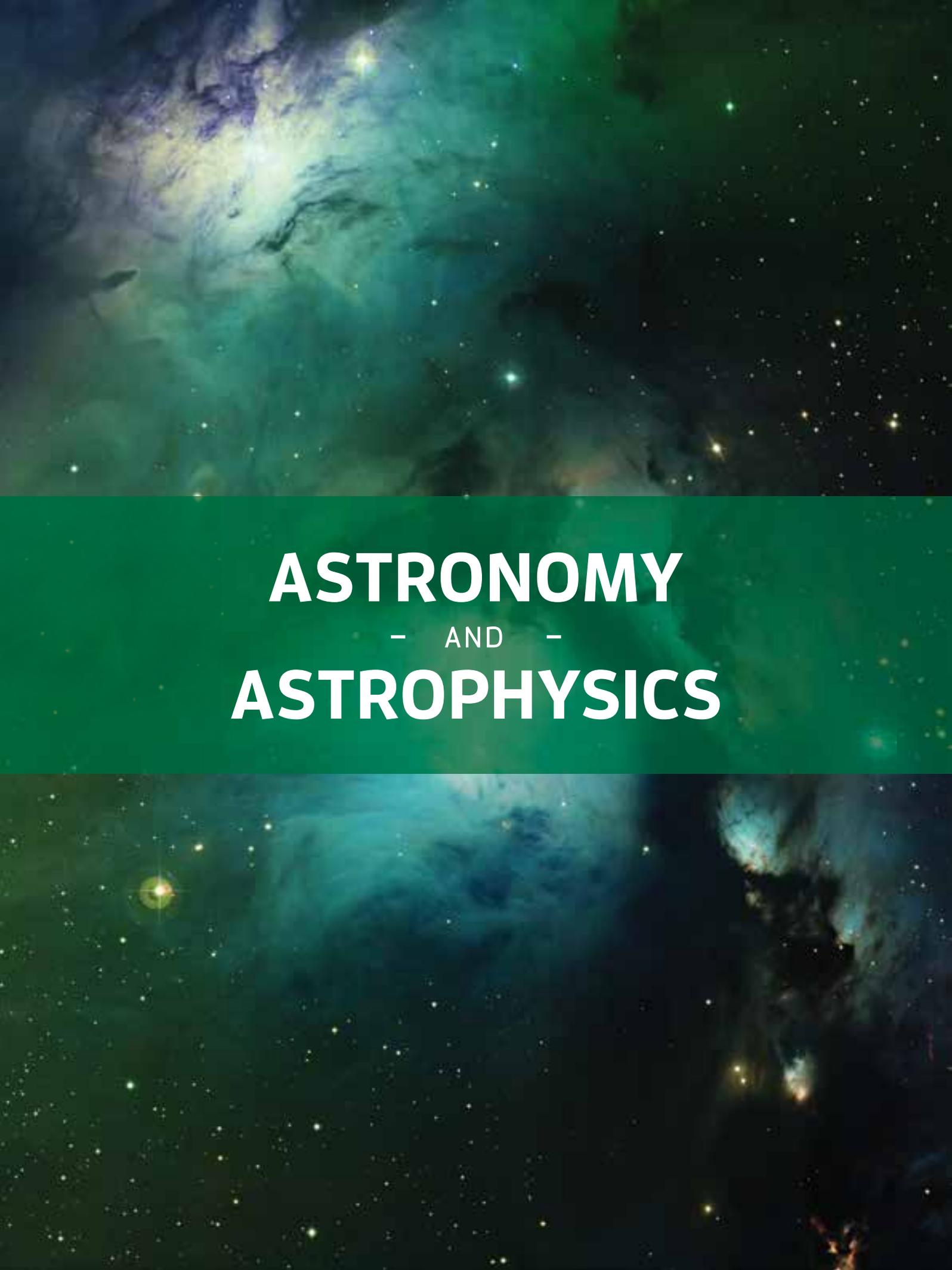
All these scientists have Ph.D.s and earned their doctorates in the same secular universities as their evolutionist contemporaries. This should highlight that it is not the ‘science’ that is in doubt. It is one’s interpretations of what happened in the past—it is history. They explain their own expertise, why evolution has not the slightest help to their research, and how the Bible’s ‘big picture’ makes far more sense. We a wide ranging array of powerful supporting evidence for the Designer/ Creator God of the Bible, but also the vitally important time-frame and historical events revealed in that Book.

These leading scientists also explain some of their personal struggles with the alleged conflict of science and the Bible. However, they realized a huge conflict between long-age/evolutionary dogma and the Bible.

One of the fundamental conflicts, as they explain, is that the Bible teaches that death, both human and animal, came because of Adam’s sin. Death is called “the wages of sin” (Romans 6:23) and “the last enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26), so this is not something that could have been in a finished creation God Himself called “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Furthermore, the New Testament, in the great Gospel/ Resurrection chapter of 1 Corinthians 15, links the death brought by the “first man, Adam”, with the Resurrection from the dead brought by “the Last Adam”, Jesus Christ. Long-age ideas—whether Day-Age, Gap Theory, Theistic Evolution, or Framework Hypothesis—all put both human and animal death before sin. Thus they undermine the character of God’s goodness. And they undermine the basis for the Gospel, the Good News, based on the Bad News of Adam’s sin and death.

Some of them tried what many compromising church colleges advocate: the so-called NOMA or “Non-Overlapping MAgisteria”, even though this was pushed by the late atheist Stephen Jay Gould. What this really means is *compartmentalizing their brain*: believe the Bible one day a week in church, but don’t think about it while in the lab. But as these scientists show, this is irrational and ultimately hopeless. If the Bible is the Word of God as it claims and Jesus affirms “cannot be broken” (John 10:36), how can it be casually put aside in the “real world”?

We have produced this book so families can ‘meet’ many real scientists who believe the Bible, and be encouraged by this. Then they will be equipped to help bust one of the most dangerous myths of our time.



ASTRONOMY
- AND -
ASTROPHYSICS



GALAXIES, BLACK HOLES, AND CREATION

Jonathan Sarfati chats with
astrophysicist *Dr Markus Blietz*

Dr Markus Blietz was born in Germany in 1962, and studied physics at the Technical University in München (Munich). In 1994 he earned his Ph.D. in astrophysics at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching (near Munich). He now works in the semiconductor industry as a patent manager, helping researchers to develop and patent new ideas. In spring 2008, he was born again, and since then has been a keen supporter of creation ministries. Dr Blietz and his wife Alexandra have two children and reside in a small town in Bavaria (Germany), not far away from Salzburg (Austria).



Dr Markus Blietz

“Only the truth in the Word of God is able to give a full, comprehensive answer to our basic questions of death and life.”

The educational and media system often contrast ‘creationists’ and ‘scientists’. But in every issue of *Creation* magazine we prove them wrong with an interview with a highly qualified scientist who is also a creationist. Not too many of them have been astronomers or astrophysicists like Dr Blietz. His interest in science started at the tender age of five. Markus’ father took him kite flying, and the boy was very interested in why the kite could fly and stay intact. “This was the beginning of my interest in science,” he says.

Black holes and galaxies

After progressing through the rigorous German schooling, Markus eventually specialized in astrophysics. In particular, he explains:

My Ph.D. work was about a special class of galaxy called Seyfert galaxies. These contain active galactic nuclei—very bright, star-like centers. The most common explanation is a gigantic black hole in the centre of these galaxies.

Dr Blietz explained how a black hole is predicted by Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity if an unimaginable amount of mass accumulates in a very small space. E.g. the sun (mass 2×10^{30} kg) would need to be compressed into only 6 km (4 miles) diameter. But the centres of the galaxies are proposed to be *supermassive* black holes. These would be up to 100 million times the sun’s mass, concentrated in a volume with a diameter smaller than the distance from Earth to the moon (384,000 km / 239,000 miles).

So why ‘black’? He explained that such concentrated mass generates an extremely strong gravitational force, which bends the four-dimensional space fabric. As a result, even light, which has no rest mass and moves at 300,000 kilometres (186,000 miles) per second, cannot escape. Since no light should reach us, physicist John Wheeler called them ‘black holes’. But then, why do galactic nuclei emit so much light? Shouldn’t they be pitch black as well? Dr Blietz explains:

The strong gravitational force causes nearby gas clouds, which surround the black hole, to spiral into it. Due to the spiralling, the clouds are forming a disc, a so-called accretion disc. While this happens, the gas clouds accelerate and emit highly energetic X-rays. This radiation is then believed to hit other gas clouds, further away from the centre, which then heat up and emit longer wavelength radiation, which can be seen as visible light. Using special instruments, one can observe the spectral distribution of the light emitted by these further out gas clouds, which allows us to determine the chemical composition of the gas as well as the gas velocities. This again allows us—under certain assumptions—to calculate the central mass of the black hole.

Christian faith

Unusually, Dr Blietz became a Christian quite late in life. He lost his father to cancer, and had a mental ‘burnout’, saying it was:



The Heart and Soul nebulae are seen in this infrared mosaic from NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer.

... so extreme that I could not even read one single word anymore! Even the smallest decisions were too much for me. Basically my brain, the instrument which I trained all my life and which I was proud of, all of a sudden went out of operation.

Secular science could not explain the clear reality of *good vs bad*. But this difference makes sense if there is indeed a Creator. Then he read the Bible owned by his wife, who was not yet a reborn Christian:

I read the Gospel according to Matthew. Almost immediately I understood that Jesus was a real, historical person, that He came to fulfill a mission and that I needed him urgently.

Then a Christian friend lent him a small booklet that:

... explained the full plan of God, from the beginning of the creation, to the coming of Jesus on this earth, His crucifixion and resurrection, His second coming, the final judgment

and the creation of a new heaven and earth. I knew this was the truth. In the booklet there was also a prayer, where one could confess his sins and give his life to Jesus. I did not hesitate a minute; I fell on my knees and delivered my life to Jesus.

Importance of creation

That was an interesting point: this booklet started from creation. Yet many evangelists discourage talk about creation, and say, "Just preach the Gospel." But Dr Blietz responds:

If the Bible is not reliable in its historical statements, how can it be true in other statements? If Jesus didn't speak the truth about Genesis, how could we trust what He was saying about sin, the cross, resurrection and everlasting life? Jesus Christ is the Truth; and if He affirmed the literal creation of the world in six normal-length days, we Christians should do the same. If however we compromise and try to marry millions and billions of years with

"If Jesus didn't speak the truth about Genesis, how could we trust what He was saying about sin, the cross, resurrection and everlasting life?"

“Use the gifts we got from Him and use them for Him, to the glory of Him and His Son, Jesus Christ.”

the creation account of the Bible, we may easily pull folk away from the truth of the Bible and the Gospel.

But what about science, which would be important to a published scientist? Markus points out:

Science is a human endeavour to find the truth about the world of matter. It is not fully reliable, because theories and models change over time. Also, science cannot say anything about the big questions of ‘where do we come from, why are we here, and where do we go?’ Science is limited in its abilities and should not step over the clear limits which have been set by God.

Astronomical support for the Bible

Also, despite its limitations, science provides good support for the Bible. Dr Blietz listed a number of areas in geology and biology, but also in his own field of astronomy. For example, the existence of comets in our solar system, as he explains:

Comets are like dirty snowballs circling around the sun on highly elliptical orbits. Every orbit, they lose material, because they start to melt when they come close to the sun. After less than 10,000 years they should have disappeared completely. Evolutionist scientists have therefore ‘invented’ the so-called Oort Cloud, which, according to their theory, should act as a source for replenishing the comets, and which they say is located in the most distant parts of our solar system. However, despite intensive search in the last century, up to now there is not the smallest piece of evidence of this hypothesis. If the Bible is true, one would of course expect many comets to still be ‘alive’, because

6,000 years is just not enough for most of the comets to have melted.¹

Dr Blietz is also highly critical of the big bang dogma. For example:

The big bang model assumes the existence of so-called dark matter and dark energy. Neither of these have ever been observed in the laboratory. However, they are desperately needed to uphold the model and to avoid contradiction with the observational data.

The big bang also has no reasonable explanation for the virtual non-existence of antimatter. This is an enemy of normal matter: when they meet, they annihilate each other with intense release of energy. But according to the model, an equal amount of antimatter and matter should have been generated.

Distant starlight

Dr Blietz has published papers in astrophysics journals on Seyfert galaxies, e.g. those classified as NGC 1068² and NGC 7469.³ But they are 47 million and 200 million light years away respectively. So I asked, “How could you study light from these galaxies if the universe is only 6,000 years old?” Dr Blietz responded with several ideas, including:

A more ‘scientific’ explanation would be the models recently presented by John Hartnett and Russell Humphreys in their books and papers in the *Journal of Creation*. They propose time dilation effects from general relativity to have taken place. In their models, at the beginning of creation, time on Earth went much slower than time near the edge of the universe (based on the Bible, they assume an edge and centre for the universe; big



Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex from NASA's Wide-field Infrared Explorer

bang theorists presuppose without evidence a universe without edge and centre). While only 24 hours passed on Earth during Day Four of Creation Week, billions of years passed in the distant parts of the universe. This way, light from the stars would have had enough time to travel from even the most distant parts of the universe to Earth. Whatever explanation is true, I see no contradiction between the biblical report and the science of Seyfert galaxies.”

What about young Christians wanting to study science?

Markus encourages Christians to pursue science if they are interested. Indeed, he affirms:

Only belief in Jesus Christ can open our eyes and give us the correct view of our world. Before I was a Christian, I never felt really content with the evolutionary world view, which I had adopted. It produced too many contradictions and left

open too many questions. Only the truth in the Word of God is able to give a full, comprehensive answer to our basic questions of death and life.

However, he warns that many in the scientific establishment will ridicule and persecute dissenters.⁴ All the same, he says that we can:

... study science to be able to better serve God. And I think this is exactly what He wants every one of us to do: To use the gifts we got from Him and use them for Him, to the glory of Him and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Adapted from *Creation* 35(2):34–36, 2013; creation.com/blietz.

References and notes

1. Sarfati, J., Comets—portents of doom or indicators of youth? *Creation* 25(3):36–40, 2003; creation.com/comets.
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3. Blietz, M. *et al.*, High Resolution Near-Infrared Observations of the Seyfert 1 Galaxy NGC 7469, *First Stromlo Symposium: The Physics of Active Galaxies*, ASP Conference Series 54, 1994.
4. This was documented in Ben Stein's documentary *Expelled*, and in Dr Jerry Bergman's book *Slaughter of the Dissidents*, both available from CMI.

“Jesus Christ is the Truth; and if He affirmed the literal creation of the world in six normal-length days, we Christians should do the same.”
