

GLEANINGS — September 27, A.D. 2015
Cosmogony and Cosmology

Using such words can provoke the popular flippant question, "what planet are YOU from?" My answer to that question is: NONE! That is because I do not live on a planet. Please read on if you are interested in my explanation of that jarring claim.

First, back to our closely related titular words. You'll see the Greek root word COSMOS in both. English has directly adopted that Greek word. It is a name for all things, the whole creation. CosmoGONY deals specifically with the origin of the cosmos. CosmoLOGY is a broader term which can include origins but also deals with the structure as well as the development and present state of the cosmos.

Generally speaking, terms like outer space, solar system, and planet – as that last word is presently used – assume a "big bang" cosmogony which is based on the presuppositions of godless (*and ipso facto culpable, Romans 1:20*) reasoning. The real cosmogony is found in Genesis chapter 1. In the space of six days of ordinary length, God spoke and...BANG! All objects and entities came into being!

As the ancients looked carefully at the night time heavens, they saw that some of those lovely points of twinkling light seemed more fixed in place, while others seemed to wander. The word planet also derives without much change from an ancient Greek word: PLANETES – meaning wandering star.

God has allowed mankind to make further discoveries about what His word declared long before the earliest known telescopes were invented in the early 17th century of our Lord: "There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; **for one star differs from another star in glory.**" (1 Corinthians 15:41).

We have discovered much about the different glories of light reflecting celestial bodies like the moon, Venus, and Jupiter, and that's great! And we have learned that they in turn differ in glory from bodies like the sun, Sirius, and Antares – gigantic, light generating balls of fire. How wonderful that the Lord grants us the wisdom to make these discoveries! But unless one is already committed to a godless cosmogony, why should these discoveries overthrow how we think about the divinely created heavens and the earth in general?

Standing firmly on a Biblical world view (perhaps better called a "cosmos view?") we find that we do not stand on a wandering star! We stand on a very special place called THE earth, which is the LORD's and the fulness thereof (Psalm 24:1). It is the only place in the cosmos known to have biological life. It is the place to which God came in the flesh.

We need not deny that the earth shares certain attributes with Mars, for example, anymore than we would deny that chimps and humans have somewhat similar body shapes. Yet we affirm that humans are utterly set apart from all animals (Genesis 1:26). Likewise, we affirm the earth's unique role in God's creation. That is underscored by the infallibly accurate Biblical cosmogony which asserts that the sun, moon, and stars (wandering or fixed) came into being on day four of the creation week, whereas the earth itself existed as of creation day one.

So our home the earth is not "just another planet." It is the place from which beings created in God's image can view by day or by night the heavens which were made by His fingers, which He thereafter stretched out (Isaiah 42:5, et. al.), and which display His glory and call us to humility before Him (Psalm 8:3,4; 19:1).

Court is still out on question of the **physical** center of the creation. The theories of Copernicus displaced those of Ptolemy. Strict heliocentrism has since been displaced. Genuine scientific inquiry (*as opposed to that which masquerades as such in order to push unfalsifiable dogma*) will no doubt continue to amaze us BECAUSE of that very purpose of the heavens: to display the glory of the omnipotent, omniscient, "omni-artistic" Creator!