

READERS' FORUM

The Critics Rave

Below is a collection of emails from critics and fans of geocentricity. All are sic: saved in copying.

From Joseph G.

I thought that the ideas (theories?) espoused by The Flat Earth Society were dumb but you people are so far out that I find it difficult to believe you are even smart enough to breathe much less have the capability of forming an intelligent thought. Geocentricity is plainly absurd as are most of the faulty and superstitious teachings in the Bible, the Torah and the Koran.

From Stig H.

Your book *A Geocentricity Primer* is the most preposterous pseudoscientific gibberish I've ever read. The section about the Firmament is beyond comprehension and borders on lunacy.

Ted W. to Dr. Bouw

Sir, I read your book and greatly enjoyed it! I am a Christian and this has greatly interested me since I always thought the earth spins around the sun. can you explain were the planets are in relation to the earth in this model, and how do you account for the vast distance from earth to mars? what about all the stuff were getting about mars what if man does get there someday? Is man confined to earth? We have already been to the Moon?

Dr. Bouw to Ted W.

In the modern geocentric model, the sun, planets, comets, asteroids and so forth orbit the sun. After all, the Bible says that the sun rules the day, and the day is defined as anyplace reached by sunlight. Likewise, the night is defined as any place not reached by sunlight, particularly, the cone of darkness which is the shadow of the earth and that is called the moon's "umbra." So for the most part, the model you learned in school is correct except that the earth is not a planet.

The earth is located at the center of all the circular motion of all the objects in the universe. Astronomers would say that the earth is at

the "barycenter" of the universe, the point where any hemisphere of the universe would balance the other hemisphere.

As for the distance to Mars, moon, or to any planet, star, galaxy, or even to the edge of the universe, those distances are simply how large God made them. Clearly, if the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork as Psalm 19:1 says, the larger the universe compared to the earth and man, the greater God's glory.

The earth was made for man and the sun, moon, and stars were made for earth, to give light upon the earth (Genesis 1:15) and to be for signs and for seasons to men. Man was commanded to subdue the earth which means that part of that command is extended to the astral bodies. God has made it very difficult for man to survive in space, but he also made it difficult for him to survive in water; yet we can do that with our technology that God has made available to us. In like manner, there may be a technology that God will make available to us in due time which will allow us to live safely in space. The Bible does speak of men setting their nests among the stars (Obadiah 1:4) and drawing his elect from the ends of heaven (Matthew 24:21), which suggests some sort of space travel; perhaps with spiritual bodies instead of physical ones.

I do believe that we have gone to the moon. I have seen no convincing claims countering the Apollo missions. All claims are all based on speculation, quotes out of context, and unphysical or exaggerated claims about things like the van Allen belts, for instance. To receive a fatal dose of radiation in the van Allen belts (500 REM), an astronaut would have to spend 13,888,000 hours in the belts traversed en route to the moon. For comparison, there are 8,766 hours in a year.

When is a Myth a Fact?

This is a long exchange of emails. Note that people who have obviously never read the Bible think they know everything about it. The exchange is between Ed M. and yours truly.

Ed:

I received some material in the mail and visited your website. I am contacting you to clarify whether your contentions regarding geocentricity are simply a put-on to fool (or make fun of) the gullible... or whether they represent true beliefs.

I have long been interested in how some people, seemingly rational and reasonably intelligent, can hold views that would be considered preposterous in the context of what we know about the world... i.e.

for example, essentially denying the essence of science in favor of myths and fables assembled by self-serving functionaries in a church anxious to build a centralized hierarchy over a thousand years ago. If you are sincere in your beliefs re geocentricity I would be interested in interviewing you. Some questions would regard the inerrancy of the Bible and how one would come to the conclusion that it represents the word of God.

If you would be interested in discussing your views please contact me.

GB:

It is my position that geocentricity is the true physics of the cosmos and that Copernicanism was designed to fool the worldly wise. The essence of science is to hypothesize and test, and in the case of the modern heliocentric model, the fundamental experiments of the nineteenth century all failed to find the orbital motion of the earth. Instead of accepting the geocentric model, however, hypothesis was piled atop hypothesis to keep the earth orbiting the sun. The result is the General Theory of Relativity, which makes every object in the universe, even the most wildly gyrating and oscillating nuclear particle, look like it rests at the center of a wildly gyrating and oscillating universe. There is no money to be made in geocentricity. People buy fiction, not truth; thus says the second law of thermodynamics. So there is no profit here from fooling the gullible; they have already spent their money on iTunes, videos, dope, booze; virtual realities all: the lotus-eaters.

Anyhow, that is my perspective.

Ed:

I strongly suggest that you acquaint yourself with the science of astronomy... maybe starting with Copernicus and Kepler and move onward to Einstein.

The Bible was never meant to be the "equivocal or inerrant truth of God" as you suggest. The authors at the time (about 100 years after Jesus died) were merely trying to organize recorded stories and myths about Jesus (gospels) into one grouping for the sake of church unification or hierarchy. The Christian charlatans of late peddle such nonsense for monetary gain. (Beware the deceivers and keep your hand on your wallet.)

You might also want to study a little Biblical history and the works of the many people who have studied the Bible.

GB:

I think that with a Bachelor of Science degree in astrophysics from the University of Rochester (1967) and a Ph.D. in astronomy from Case Western Reserve University (1973), and as one of the few amateur cosmologists in the world, I am acquainted with astronomy and the physics of planetary and cosmic motions. (Check with the universities. The name on my diplomas is Gerardus D. Bouw and I gave you the years above.)

When it comes to the Bible, I published a book on Bible and textual problems and was invited to and have spoken in Europe, Asia, and Australasia, all on paid tours. Jesus said, "Thy word (the Bible) is truth." In the past 33 years I have read the Bible from cover-to-cover more than 20 times. The reason why it is so few times is because each reading was in-depth, comparing scripture with scripture. I suggest you read a King James Bible from cover-to-cover yourself (all other versions are counterfeit) and that you read Sir Fred Hoyle's book on Copernicus for the insight you are lacking in historical versus modern astronomy.

By the way, the Association for Biblical Astronomy has existed for 37 years and in that time has been in the black at the end of a year only twice. So much for the money that you think drives me. If you want to make money you have to come up with REAL crackpot ideas, such as the quest for the historical Jesus, moon-landing fraud claims, conspiracy claims, anti-Semitism, only-the-original-autographs-are-inspired heresy, new Bible versions, or insipid "Christian" music, and write positive books and preach positive messages such as the blasphemous Joel Osteen, Westcott and Hort, Bob Jones III, Dallas Theological Seminary, etc. There are your Christian charlatans. The Bible says that the praise of this world is enmity with God. Selah.

Ed:

I find it hard to believe that with your seemingly good education you could allow your mind to essentially discredit much of our science and understanding of the world around us. Do you believe that we visited the moon or that the Hubble telescope exists?

Regarding what Jesus "actually" said we will probably never really know. The gospels which some profess to convey his words were written hundreds of years after his death by numerous authors often contradicting each other while their content was passed along via hearsay and rumor. I think most Biblical scholars agree that Jesus existed and was an influential leader and charismatic speaker and most importantly implored people to know themselves, develop principles,

and be true to those principles. Also most would agree that Jesus contended he was part of the transcendental spirit like all forms of life on earth.

Humans have been creating myths to explain what they fail to understand since the beginning of recorded history. Unfortunately we have an inherent tendency to occasionally accept these myths as fact and then even war over which myth is superior.

I have a background in math, chemistry, and physics and know that the more I "understand" the more mystery is revealed. We basically know very little about our existence on this planet, but I "believe" that the "transcendental spiritual forces" if they care at all would want us to use our intelligence to the best of our ability.... and not succumb to the temptation of accepting myth as fact.

GB:

I know we went to the moon, and Hubble is real.

The Bible says that God will preserve his words; all you have to do is use your head to find it. It's not hard. Consider the stupidity exhibited by those who claim we can't know what Jesus said or did. First, they claim that only the original autographs are inspired. Then they claim that God could not preserve his words, so we no longer have the inspired text. **FIRST IDIOCY:** "are inspired" is present tense. If they no longer exist, they **WERE** inspired. Next, they say that since God was not able to preserve his words from corruption by **HONEST MEN** (I kid you not), it falls on them, the **only-the-original-autographs-are-inspired-crowd**, to recover the "lost" text. Now think about that for a moment. **SECOND IDIOCY:** an omnipotent God was not able to preserve his text from corruption but **NOW** needs those idiots (theologians) who cannot get their tenses right to labor in word and doctrine to help God out in recovering that which God did not think worthy enough to use his omnipotence to preserve. **THIRD IDIOCY:** people who have never read the critical bible text, let alone the preserved Bible text, make grandiose claims about the Bible. They claim that the Bible was written hundreds of years after Jesus, even though the men who wrote and all physical and historical evidence say otherwise; or they claim that the Bible says some things, *e.g.*, that his words contradict one another, or that Jesus claimed he was part of the "transcendental spirit" no different than all forms of life on earth, which claims are easily falsified by actually **READING** the Bible, even a corrupt modern version. Who is it that accepts myths over fact in these cases?

It's a matter of faith, isn't it? Who does one believe and what does one believe? To me, this makes perfect sense: Nothing, as a thing, can have no properties. It cannot have size, intelligence, knowledge,

etc. and it certainly cannot have the property of existence. Thus, if nothing cannot exist, then the inverse of nothing must exist. The properties of the inverse are: infinite size, infinite intelligence, infinite knowledge, etc. That is, logically, God exists. The question then is which of the pantheon of fabled gods is THE God. You can weed out the gods by looking at their properties. (Note that "nothing" can have neither the property of goodness nor badness. That means that these are created properties, properties that are finite, not infinite, and thus God's goodness is seen as frowardness to the froward and goodness to the upright in heart.)

Ed:

If god wrote the bible with the help of humans, why would he have written such preposterous jibberish that often contradicts itself and is loaded with acts of seemingly random violence and meanness?

Do you believe the stories about a guy living in a whale and the one about noah and the flood or that the earth and all life were created within last 10,000 years?

Most who have studied the work believe that the bible was written as a collection of myths and stories to illustrate morality as it existed thousands of years ago... it was never meant to be taken seriously. Don't be fooled...

GB:

Yes, I believe them. Do you actually believe the stories about the chemical soup that accidentally turned into a man and a woman as it simmered for millions of years? I don't. You won't have to worry about spending eternity with that mean, violent, preposterous God, will you? If God is a myth, then why does it get your dander up? Who cares?

Ed:

I guess I care because it is painful to watch adults behave like children. Did not someone once say that as you mature you put away childish beliefs. Since beginning of recorded time humans have created myths about phenomena they could not understand. If Jesus were to see what we are now doing and saying in his name he would no doubt sicken. These myths have over the years done much more evil in terms of misery for all life forms than good. And if there were wise, omniscient, metaphysical spiritis/ beings, would they not want people to use their "god given" brains?

"the second law of thermodynamics says that the truth will not be believed by most men."

The second law of thermo states no such thing ... it merely states that entropy in a complex system increases with time.

"You're a fool if you believe evolution, whether you believe in God or not."

Why is it then that the fools seem to generally accept the biblical prophecy that the earth is the center of the universe and that gods created all life in seven days? What could be more foolish than that?

Have you ever really given serious thought to your "beliefs"?

GB:

I used to be an atheist. Does that answer your question about giving serious thoughts to my beliefs? Jesus does see what is being done in his name and against his brethren. That's why he put liberals in charge of us (Isaiah 32:5).

Look, I know that atheism does not make one a "bad" person. Nor does being an atheist mean you hate God; God merely becomes irrelevant. You love your family as much as any believer in God.

The Bible defines a hater of God as anyone who bows down or (OR, not AND) serves a graven image (2nd commandment). Theologians converted me to atheism by their infidelity; traditionalists, always opposing science and then 30-odd years later cowering to science claiming "the Bible knew it all along, we just misinterpreted it." To you they may be the bulwark and final authority of Christianity, but to me they are nothing but a pack of microcephalic antichrists whose sole talent is to blaspheme the God of the Bible. If that is what Christianity is to you, I stand with you in your opposition.

The God of the Bible does not tell Christians to go out and make believers by force, threat, lies, or war. That's the god of salvation-by-good-works, of state-run churches that make the state to be "THE god." The God of the Bible says that the penalty for sin has been paid once and for all. The sins of the whole world were left on the cross of Christ, and God resurrected him from the dead to vouchsafe the payment. Thus, anyone who now says that good works are still needed is a liar.

The Scripture says we are saved unto good works. The word "unto" means we cannot help but do good works. Modern versions, put out by modern Pharisees, say we are saved "for" good works, implying that the works are more important than people, even God's people.

That is why Jesus called the Pharisees “hypocrites” and a “generation of vipers.” If that is why you are an atheist, you have good reason. I would still be an atheist, too.

Re. entropy, I was referring to Boltzmann’s statistical and Shannon’s informational discoveries as they relate to the mechanical definition of entropy. See, even you have trouble believing its more general form, as Boltzmann foresaw.

Re. God’s role in creation. Jesus (God in the flesh) said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” Back in 1972, at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, there was a paper presented in the neutron star session that reported that at the surface of a neutron star, neutron-forms arise that act like molecules. The author speculated that “life” could evolve on the surface of neutron stars. Well, similar situations arise in the big bang. Furthermore, we are dealing with reaction on nuclear time scales, not molecular ones, so life would have evolved much more quickly, in seconds instead of billions of years. So, if life is inherent within the first seconds of the big bang, then why not extrapolate it back a couple of seconds and say life is inherent in the creation or formation of the universe itself? That got me to pondering the possibility that there might, just might, be a creator God. Thus I started my quest to find him, if he existed at all; and find him I did.

But science is more fallible than a King James Bible; this I know. The science of 150 years ago is today’s joke.

Anyhow, find the limitations of science and your understanding, and you will have more understanding than all your teachers.

Ed:

I am not an atheist.. The more I have discovered regarding the world around us the more I have discovered that we know damn little. I am keenly aware of this unknown and understand its infinite possibilities...but am not arrogant enough to say that I believe things that I do not know or understand. You can call this huge "unknown" Harry or God ... but do not try to define what you are not capable (as a mere human) of understanding. I think there may well be a transcendental force or power that permeates all life... but due to my limited knowledge and unwillingness to define what I do not know, that is as far as I am willing to go... so I guess that is "agnostic" if one was forced to classify.

GB:

Don’t you see that you are guilty of the very arrogance you accuse

me of; namely that you are humble in your stance and I am arrogant in mine? That is always the case, in any accusation, according to Romans 2:1. I know what I have experienced, but you have not experienced what I have in the realms of Bible, science, and faith. Yet you insist that what I experienced is an impossible myth solely on the grounds that you have not experienced it. All this to avoid reading a King James Bible and doing a bit more homework on the matter of geocentricity. What do you fear losing? Is truth the enemy?

Murphy's Lesser-Known Laws

He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first

The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he'll sit in a boat all day, drinking beer.

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Bulletin Bloopers

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - Prayer and medication to follow.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.