

Origins Insights

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A Home Built to Specifications, its' the Place to Be!

by Don Brockhage
Milpitas, CA

We're all familiar with science fiction writers which have long fancied that star systems similar to our Solar System are common throughout the universe and then there's Captain Kirk who had many of us thinking that soon all we'll need to do is drop the old ship into warp drive and beam down at the next inhabited star system.

I had recently received an invitation from the SETI institute to become a sponsor or "Team" member in their effort to find extra terrestrial intelligent life. Their reasoning is that with approximately 400 billion stars in our galaxy there must be some systems similar to ours having environments that would allow the evolution of intelligent life. Since I don't identify with their purpose I ignored the invitation. Coincidental to the SETI invitation I have become increasingly perturbed when someone tells me how insignificant they feel when they consider the multitude and size of the stars and galaxies that make up the universe. This particularly bothers me when it comes from a supposedly religious person. One can understand being awed by the universe but careful thought should be given before a God fearing person says they feel insignificant. Maybe they had just picked up the mantra from one of the late Carl Sagen's <**PBS presentations, or too much humanist schooling.**> Whatever the reason they should give more thought to the matter in light of their supposed spiritual beliefs.

According to Webster's 20th Century Dictionary the meaning of the word anthropocentric is described as: "*Regarding man as the central fact or final aim of all creation; applied to scientific or philosophical theories of the universe.*" In other words we could say that it is the belief that the earth and universe have been specifically

designed and constructed to suit mankind. The emphasis is on specifically or as put in the terms of those working in manufacturing can appreciate, designed to exact specifications! Those who have worked in quality control or as engineers, designers, toolmakers and machinist know how critical tolerances and specifications are to manufacturing. Many headaches, hours of stress, personal confrontations and losses for a manufacturer including total bankruptcy can result from "out of spec." production.

Out of the recent growing list of authors that have written on the subject of design Michael J. Behe's best seller "Darwin's Black Box" has brought to

CSF Meeting
Tuesday, 7:30 PM
January 20, 2004

Introduction to Radiometric Dating
By Bob Ivey

In this presentation Bob will discuss and define some of the basic concepts and terms used in the radiometric dating process. Attend this talk and learn how you can challenge those who still believe that the earth is 4.5 billion years old.

light a compendium of revelations concerning an incredibly vast number of mandatory specifications in the field of microbiology alone. This new understanding of the multitude and restrictive nature of design specifications is not only being found in the field of microbiology, but there is now a growing understanding of the number of specific constraints that tighten the odds against the possibility of life existing in any environment other than that which is provided here on earth. As our knowledge of the galactic environment has grown, so has our knowledge of what the critical specifications are for a life supporting stellar environment. As this list of specifications grows (to the disappointment of SETI) so do the odds against the possibility of the “*chance*” development of intelligent life or any form of life outside the confines of our Solar System.

The growth of these specifications has been generated in some part due to the needs of SETI and scientist that are sympathetic with their goal. SETI needs the information so that they can zero in with economy in areas of the Milky Way where their new Allen Radio Telescope Array can most likely find a signal that would indicate the presents of intelligent life.

In past years many respected scientists have studied the anthropocentric nature of the earth. Critical specifications such as the pressure and proportions of the atmospheric gasses, the balance of elements, the chemical makeup of the earth, the presents of liquid water, prudently stabilized temperatures, distance from the sun and the earth’s ideal size were all considered to be anthropocentric. In following years however the theory of evolution overshadowed these and other anthropocentric discoveries. The fact that the environment seemed to be designed for life was considered “*chance*” The SETI people seeing that astronomy had since revealed a universe so large reasoned that surly the same “*chance*” would allow environments similar to Earth’s to existence somewhere else amongst the trillions of stars in the universe.

According to an Article published in the October 2001 issue of Scientific American called “*Hostile Universe*” by Guillerman Gonzalez, Donald Brownlee and Peter D. Ward, it appears that the Milky Way galaxy also seems to have anthropocentric specifications. The authors have given us new insight into what the possibilities are for finding other life supporting worlds within our Milky Way and other galactic systems. In contrast to what the news media seems to purport, the article reveals that the odds for finding other star systems with planets that are capable of supporting life has been drastically reduced from what was previously believed.

Being close to the center of the galaxy would provide the higher metal content necessary to produce a star similar to our sun. However the star density, high energy radiation, comets, asteroids and gamma ray burst precludes finding a star system that could sustain life near the center. The GHZ, or galactic habitable zone is the name that astronomers have given the exclusive zone within the thin disc portion of our galaxy where the metallicities (metal content) of stars can be found that are within 60% to 200% of the sun. The zone is an annulus or ring that contains 20% of the stars in the Milky Way system. To further restrict the “*chance*” the star system must minimize the possibility of crossing one of the galactic arms if life is to survive close encounters with the densely packed stars, giant molecular clouds and interstellar radiation from within the arm. To avoid this problem the system should orbit within the galactic disk in the corotation circle where the stars orbital period is the same as that of the galaxies spiral arm rotational period. The effect of this is to drastically decrease the width of the GHZ. In the case of our Sun, besides being in the GHZ and the corotational circle it resides in an additionally more hospitable environment at the inner edge of the galactic arm where star density seems to be ideal. The inner edge of the arm has a near constant radial distance from the center of the galaxy for a good number of light years around the disk insuring constant star density even if a small differential in rotational speeds does occur.

The data also defines what the constraints are for a galactic system that would be hospitable to life. They state that the disqualification rate could be well over 99% of all known systems. This constraint is based on the brightness or innate radiation existing within the systems and the physical shape of each galaxy (they should be flat rotating systems of varied densities.) It is most likely that other disqualifying factors that are unknown at this time will also be found.

Over all the authors seem to have become quite skeptical about intelligent life existing anywhere else stating that: “*The broader universe looks even less inviting.*”

A paper published in Volume 16 No. 2 of the journal “TJ” By D. Russell Humpherys explores the “quantized red shift” anomaly discovered by William Tifft which he described in the “Astronomical Journal 287:492-501, 1984. The term “quantized” means that the red shift in the electromagnetic spectrum that is used to calculate the distances of galactic groupings occurs at specific intervals. The intervals are on the order of a million light years apart and are seen to exist in every direction as viewed from the earth. If they were to be viewed from any other perspective then the center of concen

tric spheres, the intervals or “quantized red shift” would not be apparent!

As Dr. Humpherys’ sees it, a forthright assessment of this discovery is that the three dimensional structure of the universe is such that galaxies are prearranged in concentric spherical shells at million light year intervals in which our galaxy is at or near the very center!

Could it be that when the entire universe is considered its billions of galactic systems are specifically designed to be laced together in concentric shells around our Milky Way galaxy? And was our galaxy specified to be the centerpiece of the universe, a galaxy with exact specifications? Would that galaxy have a GMZ, optimally balance radiation, specific metallicities and a star system precisely placed in its corotational zone on the inner edge of one of its arms? And would that system’s star happen to be of a specific size and with a specific radiant out put and specific metallic content? And would it have satellite planets placed in near to precise circular orbits. And would one of these satellites be a rocky planet placed in orbit at a precise radial distance from its star? And would it be of a specific mass with a protective geomagnetic shield, a specific amount of liquid water and an atmosphere specifically consisting of 21 percent oxygen, 78 percent nitrogen, etc. etc.? And would this be the place where men dwell??

With these specifications in mind we should realize that any one of them compounds the odds against “*chance*” evolution, which years before the famed British astronomer Hoyle had already declared dead, asserting that no matter how many billions of years are allowed, the odds against the needed factors, sequences, timing, materials, formulations, environment, etc. coming together with the necessary precision is without question impossible, let alone the question of what life is.

When an astronaut walks past the giant crawler that carries space vehicles to their launch pad he may feel small in comparison. But he is far from insignificant because he knows that it was all designed and constructed for his end use! The vast universe also is only a distant tool that supports the earth. Just as a great 100,000 ton press may be needed to make a product, it may nevertheless have had only a minor but necessary share in contributing to that end product. It might have had a part in forming another tool that in turn produced only a minute piece of the designers desired end product. It took a great investment in equipment, knowledge and skill to get to the moon. However what all the billions of dollars in investment and man hours were for wasn’t the space center, the rocket or any other part of the program, no! It was for the astronauts! It was about providing safe transportation to and from the moon for them!

With all his faults man is the most successful living thing on earth and has dominance over all other life. So it must be said that the earth with all its’ physical attributes and all the life it supports seems to have been designed primarily for man’s needs and pleasure. Therefore as far as the Christian is concerned, man has immense significance and all the more since we can now see that the great awesome universe itself, the Milky Way and the Solar System along with the earth are all, anthropocentric! They were designed and created to specific specifications so that they would support man! And this is little compared to what the designer has given up for us, His only begotten son!

How important are you?

In a few days people around the world will be celebrating Christmas. Most of the festivities have “evolved” into a time of parties, lights, and gift giving. Now, I am all for a good party but the real reason to celebrate Christmas is because of God’s gift to us. The prophet Isaiah wrote: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. [Isaiah 7:14] My favorite name for God is *Immanuel* which means *God with us*.

The Apostle John understood the idea of the Creator God coming to Earth to live as a man and then to provide for us a way of becoming sinless.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [John 1:1-4,14] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that

whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [John 3: 16,17]

In this Christmas season, let us rejoice with each other because of the greatest gift of all time.

I appreciate Don Brockhage from California for his fine article. Don provides a timely reminder of the place of humans in God's created Universe. If God values us so much let us regard fellow humans in like manner!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Board of Directors of CSF has decided to experiment with the location of our meetings this year. Each of our presenters thoroughly prepares their presentations for the anticipated audience. It is discouraging to have only about 20 people interested in coming to hear the message they have spent many many hours preparing. We have decided to try to expand our horizons by moving our meetings to several new locations around the Pittsburgh area. We plan to host our meetings in southern, eastern, and northern Allegheny County. We understand that this change in location will inconvenience some people and convenience others. It is our sincere wish that we do not lose one person due to these changes. We need to grow.

Please come out and support Bob Ivey on January 20 at Mars Alliance Church. Get your new calendars out and mark each month's 3rd Tuesday as the dates you plan to support your Creation Science Fellowship by attending the meetings.

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