



Genesis 1
and
Lessons from Space

The Cosmos

Scriptural Claims

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

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Genesis 1:1

“For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

Romans 1:20

The Underlying Premise

Science must be consistent with Scripture

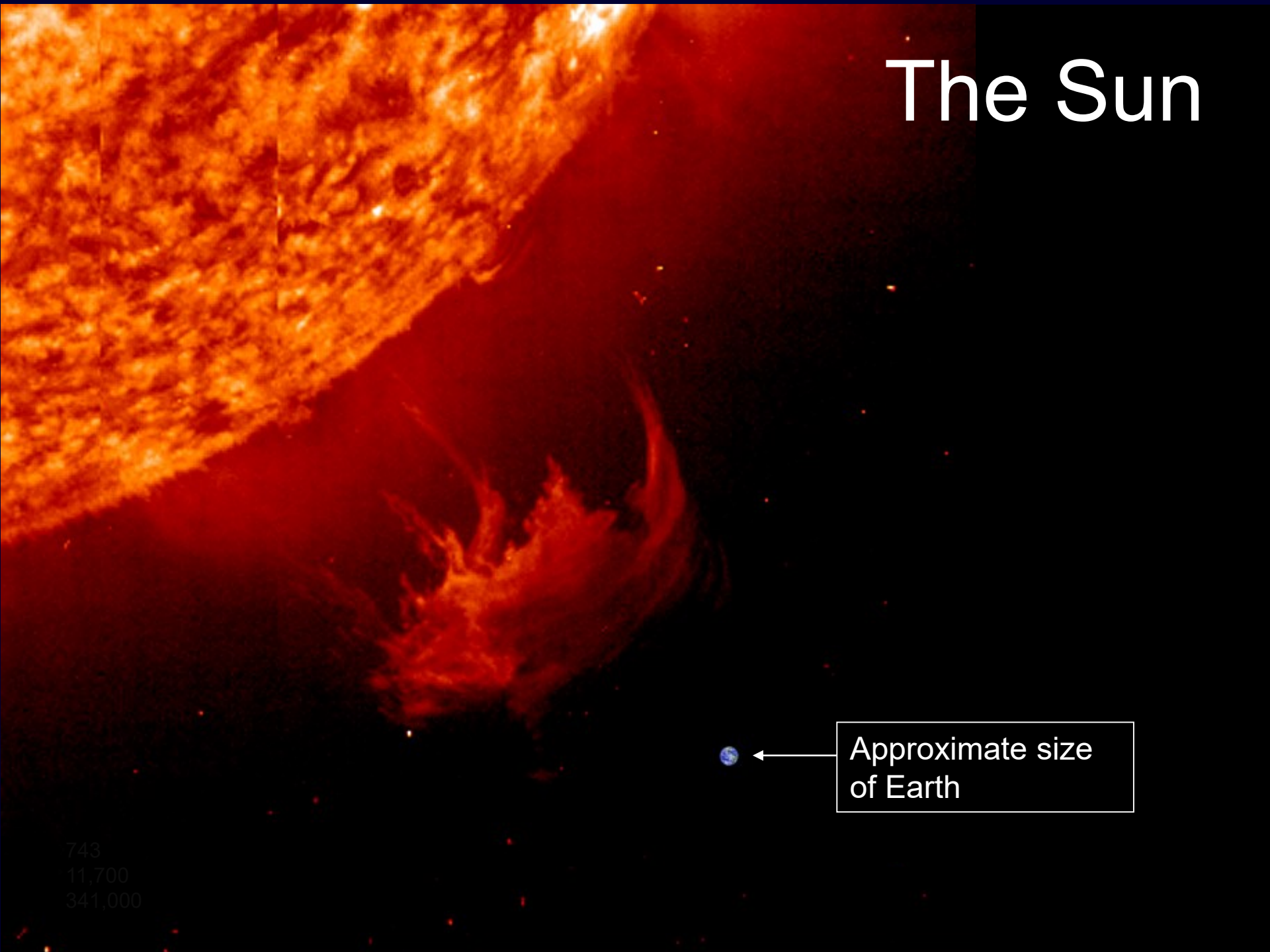
- If God is the architect, creator, and sustainer of all nature; and
- If the Bible is the inspired word of God;
- Then what the Bible has to say about nature must be consistent with what nature actually is...

The Promises to Abraham

“...I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.”

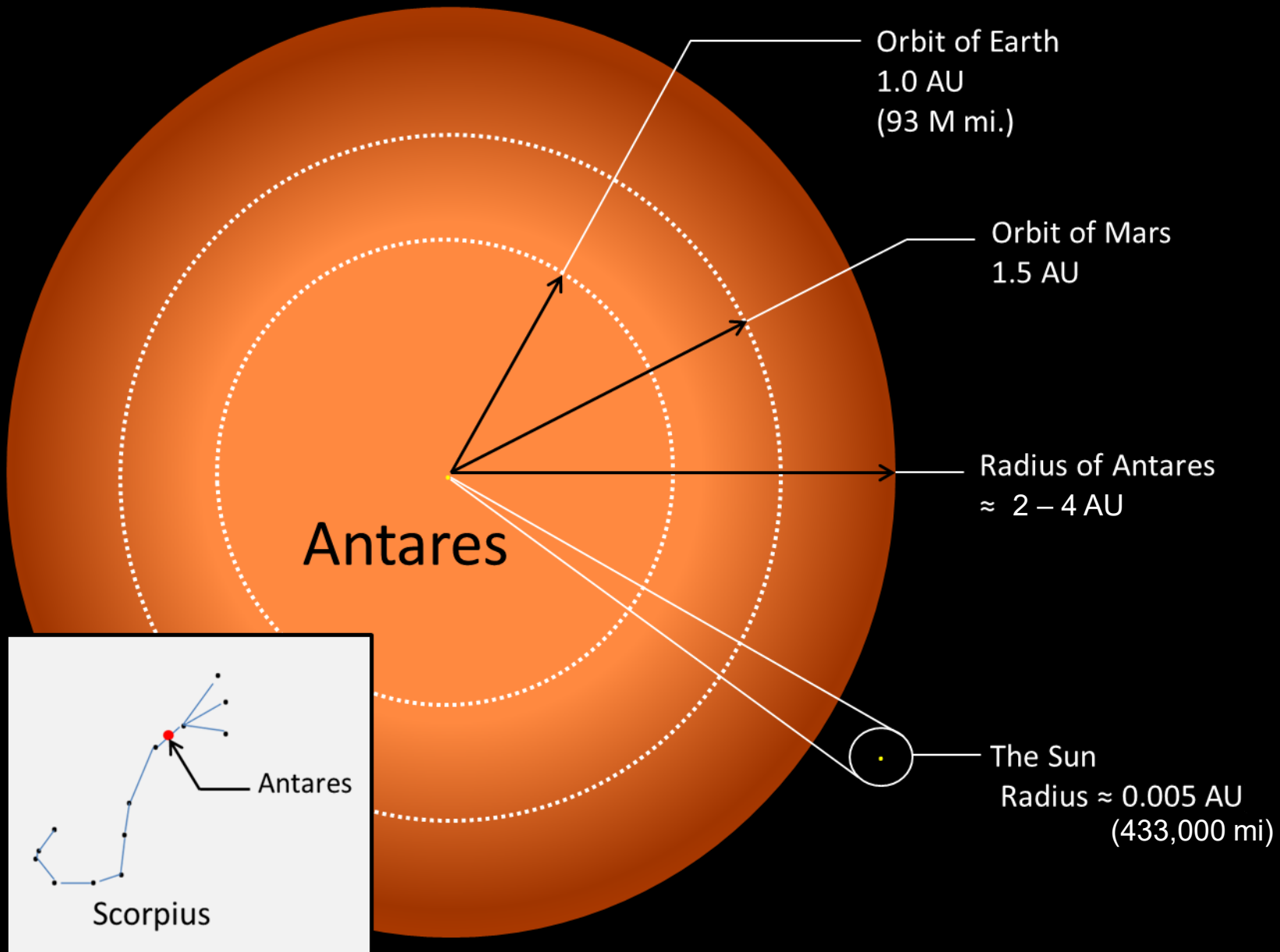
Genesis 22:17

The Sun

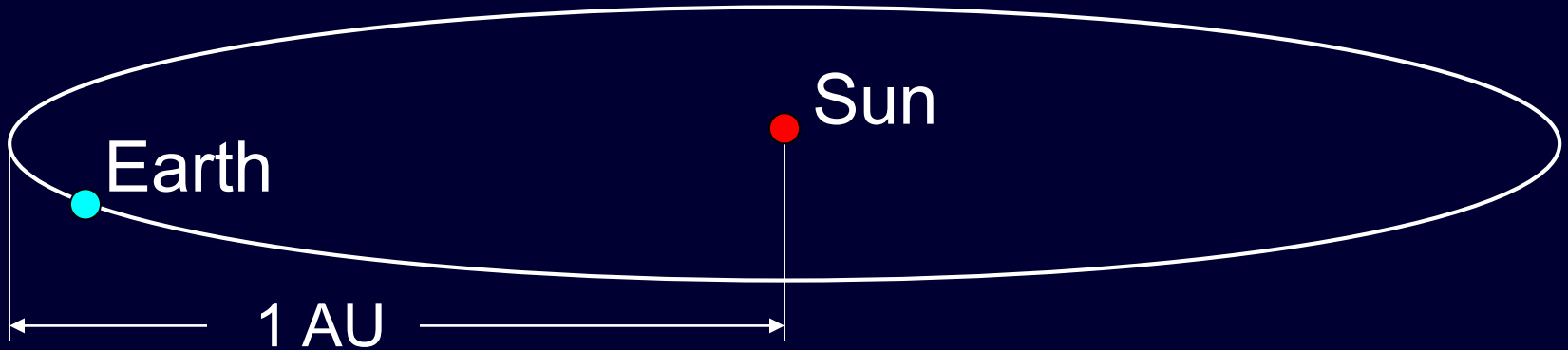


← Approximate size
of Earth

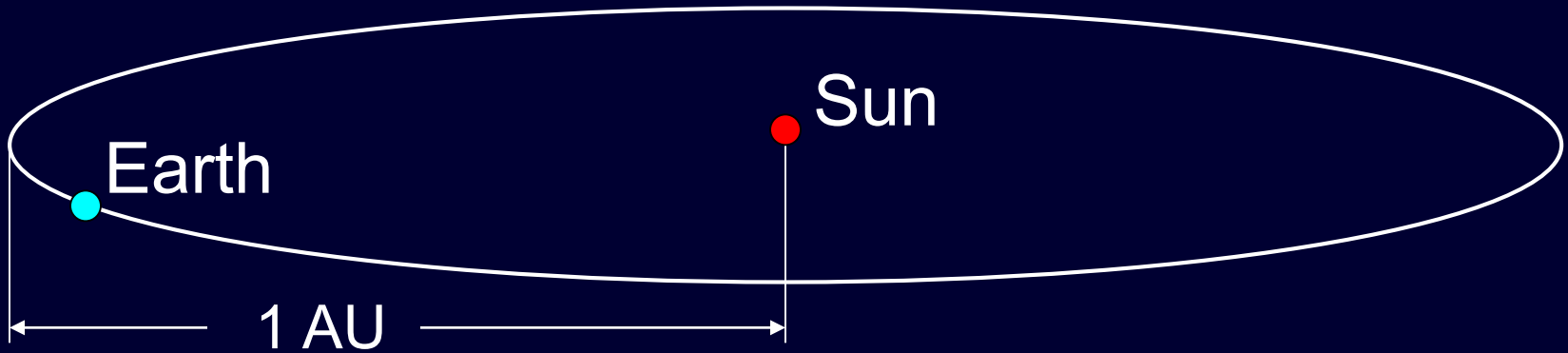
743
11,700
341,000



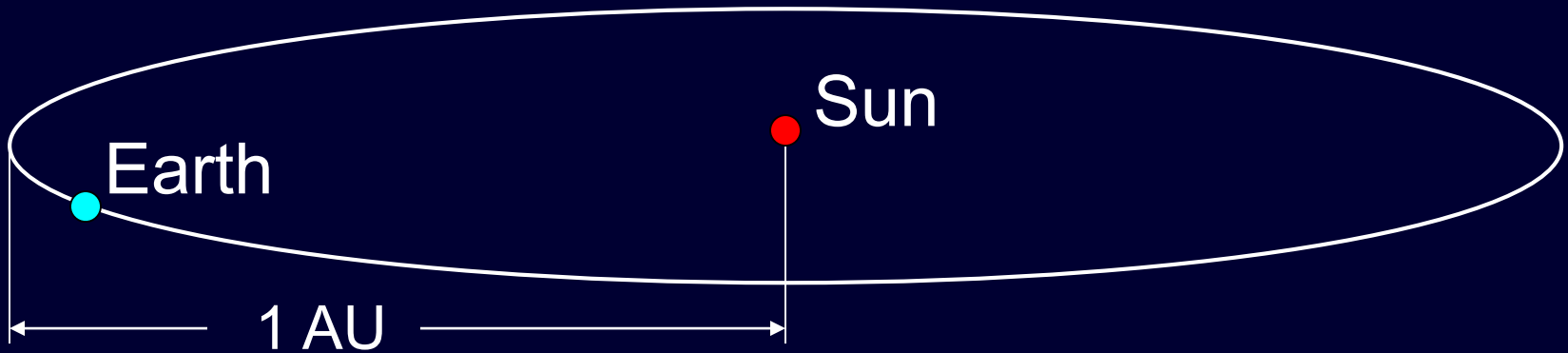
Galactic Distances



- 1 AU = 93 million miles = 93,000,000 miles



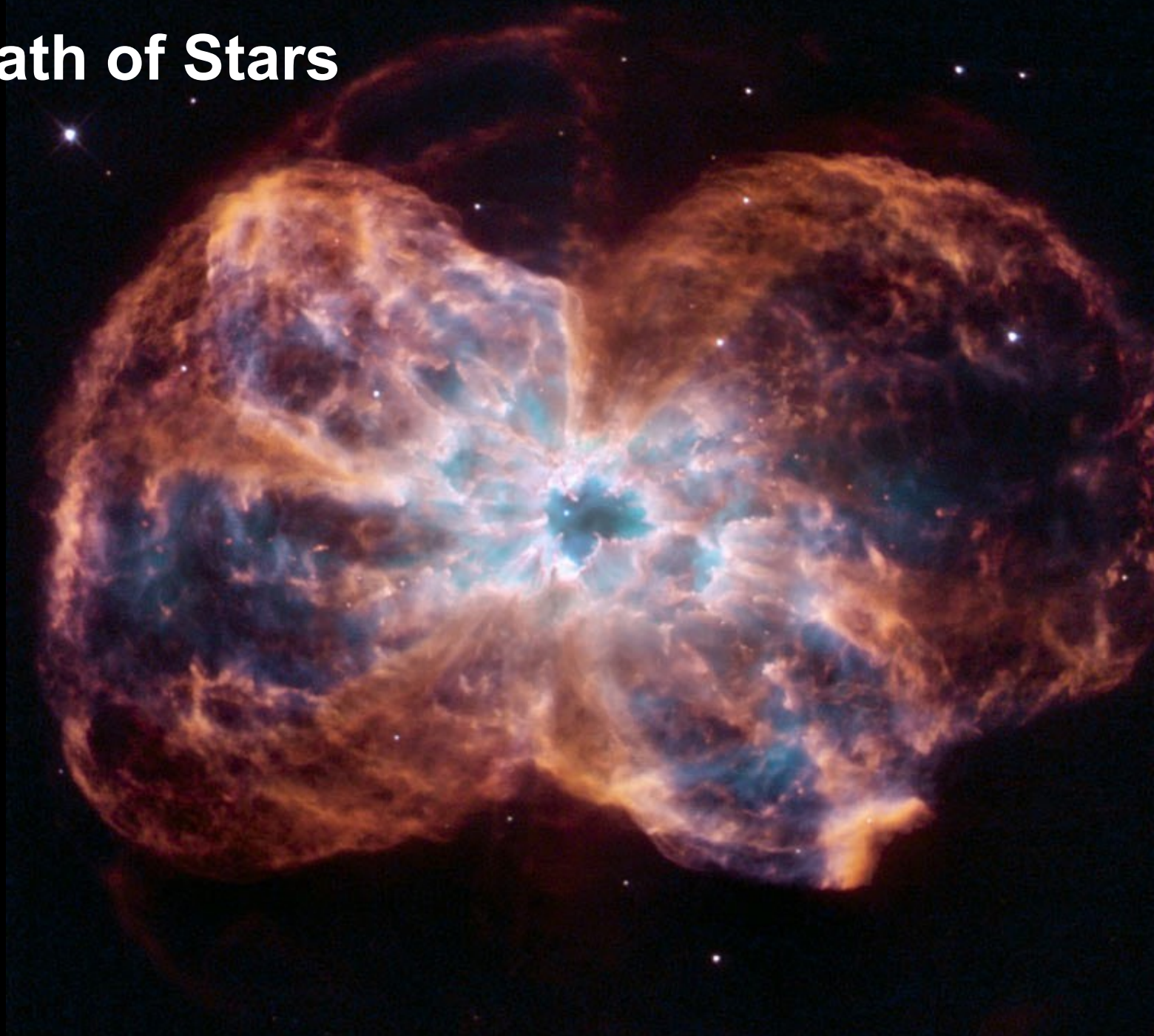
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 - travels 7.5 times around Earth in 1 sec...
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- Light Year = distance light travels in one year
 - = 6×10^{12} mi
 - = 6 million million miles

Milky Way
Photo not releasable

The Death of Stars



The Eskimo Nebula



The Cat's Eye Nebula
NGC 6543





The Birth of Stars



Orion Nebula

The Eagle Nebula



Distant Phenomena

NGC 4565 spiral galaxy—seen on edge.



~ 100,000 light years

~ 100 Billion Stars

Typical Spiral Galaxy

Andromeda Galaxy

M31, 2.3 million light-years away, is the closest spiral galaxy to our own Milky Way..



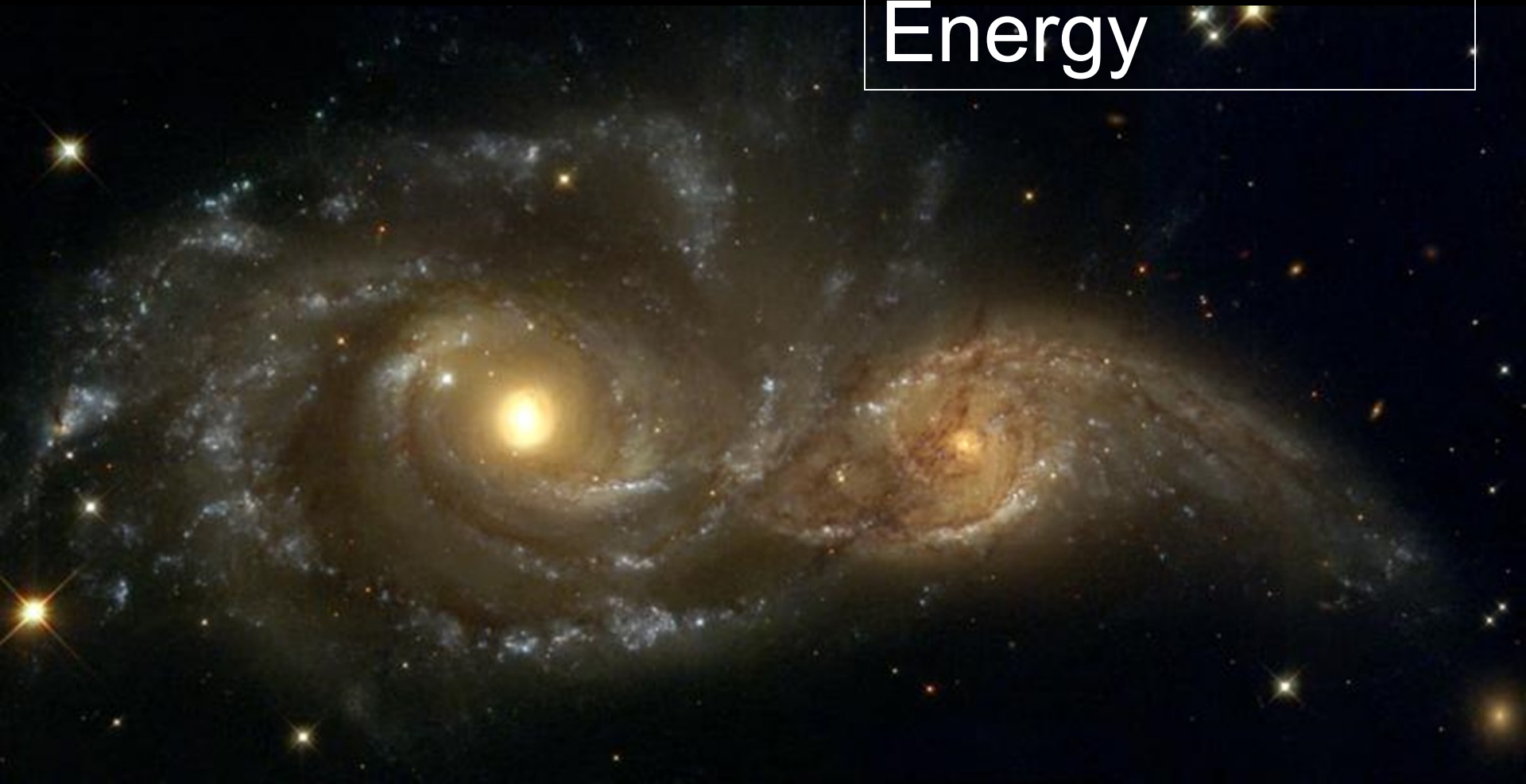


Whirlpool Galaxy M51

The Barred Spiral Galaxy
NGC 1300



Unimaginable Energy





The Universe is Expanding

The galaxies are moving away from each other and the most distant are moving the fastest.
...The Universe is expanding!

A deep-field astronomical image showing a vast field of galaxies. The galaxies are scattered across the frame, appearing in various colors including blue, orange, red, and white. Some are bright and clear, while others are faint and distant. The background is a deep black, punctuated by the light of the galaxies.

How many stars
in the sky?

100 billion Galaxies
x 100 billion Stars
per Galaxy
= 10^{22} Stars



**The heavens declare
the glory of God...**

Ps 19:1

**By Definition:
The Creator is
Greater than the Creation!**



“Finite man cannot comprehend an...infinite God. Any effort to visualize God, to reduce him to our comprehension, to describe him in our language beggars his greatness.”

Werner von Braun
My Faith

How Did the Cosmos Come to Exist?

The Logical Possibilities

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The Logical Possibilities

1. The universe is eternal.
2. The universe is not eternal. It had a beginning—:

The First Words of Scripture

“In the beginning...”

Genesis 1:1

Scientific Data Points to a Beginning!



“Now there are three lines of evidence—

- the life story of the stars—
- the motion of the galaxies,
- the laws of thermodynamics,
and

pointed to one conclusion; all indicate that *the universe had a beginning.*”

Robert Jastrow

How Did the Cosmos Come to Exist?

The Logical Possibilities

1. ~~The universe is eternal.~~
2. The universe is not eternal. It had a beginning—and in the beginning:
 - (i) It created itself from nothing
 - (ii) It was created by something—or someone.

The “Big Bang” Theory

1. The universe began in a single immense explosion (expansion) from which all matter, energy, space, and time originated—and



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Note:

- The theory does *not* account for the origin of what exploded—or why.
- The theory violates fundamental laws of physics.

The Law of Cause and Effect

Holds that:

Every effect must have an adequate antecedent cause.

The Laws of Thermodynamics

First Law:

Matter-Energy can neither be created or destroyed.

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Matter-Energy can neither be created or destroyed.

Second Law:

The total Entropy (disorder) of any *isolated* (or closed) system can never decrease in any reaction.

Views of Physicists



“A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology...”

Sir Fred Hoyle

A Closer Look at Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

Genesis 1:1

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“In the *beginning* God created the heavens and the earth...”

Genesis 1:1

- *Beginning*—Bereshith (commencement of time)

A Closer Look at Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God *created* the heavens and the earth...”

Genesis 1:1

- *Beginning*—Bereshith (commencement of time)
- *Created*—Bara (*God* made from nothing)

A Closer Look at Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the *heavens and the earth...*”

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- *Created*—Bara (*God made from nothing*)
- *Heavens & Earth*—Shamayim & Erts, respectively (the “all,” the universe)
- The article *eth*—substance of the object

Scripture Claims a Beginning

“In the beginning of time, the majestic, omnipotent God brought into existence the substance of the material universe.”

Genesis 1:1 (expanded)

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Implications:

- Creation was a process—not a single act.
 - The first step was the creation of the “substance” from which all else would be formed.
 - The rest of the chapter details the steps taken in the process by which everything was formed and earth, prepared for life.

Scripture Claims a Sequence

Is “*point creation*” followed by “*expansion*” to the present state consistent with Scripture?

- Genesis 1 is silent concerning the mode and process of creation.
- But consider: Job 37:18; Ps 104:2, and Isa 40:22: “*He stretches out the heavens...*”

They all *affirm* an expansion of the heavens.

After each creative act, in the remainder of the chapter, God declares the result “good.”

- The initial creation was *perfect*.
- The creation is *no longer perfect*.

Scripture Includes a Curse

“Because you...ate from the tree...

- Cursed is the ground because of you...It will produce thorns and thistles for you...

Genesis 3:17-19

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- Cursed is the ground because of you...It will produce thorns and thistles for you...
- By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

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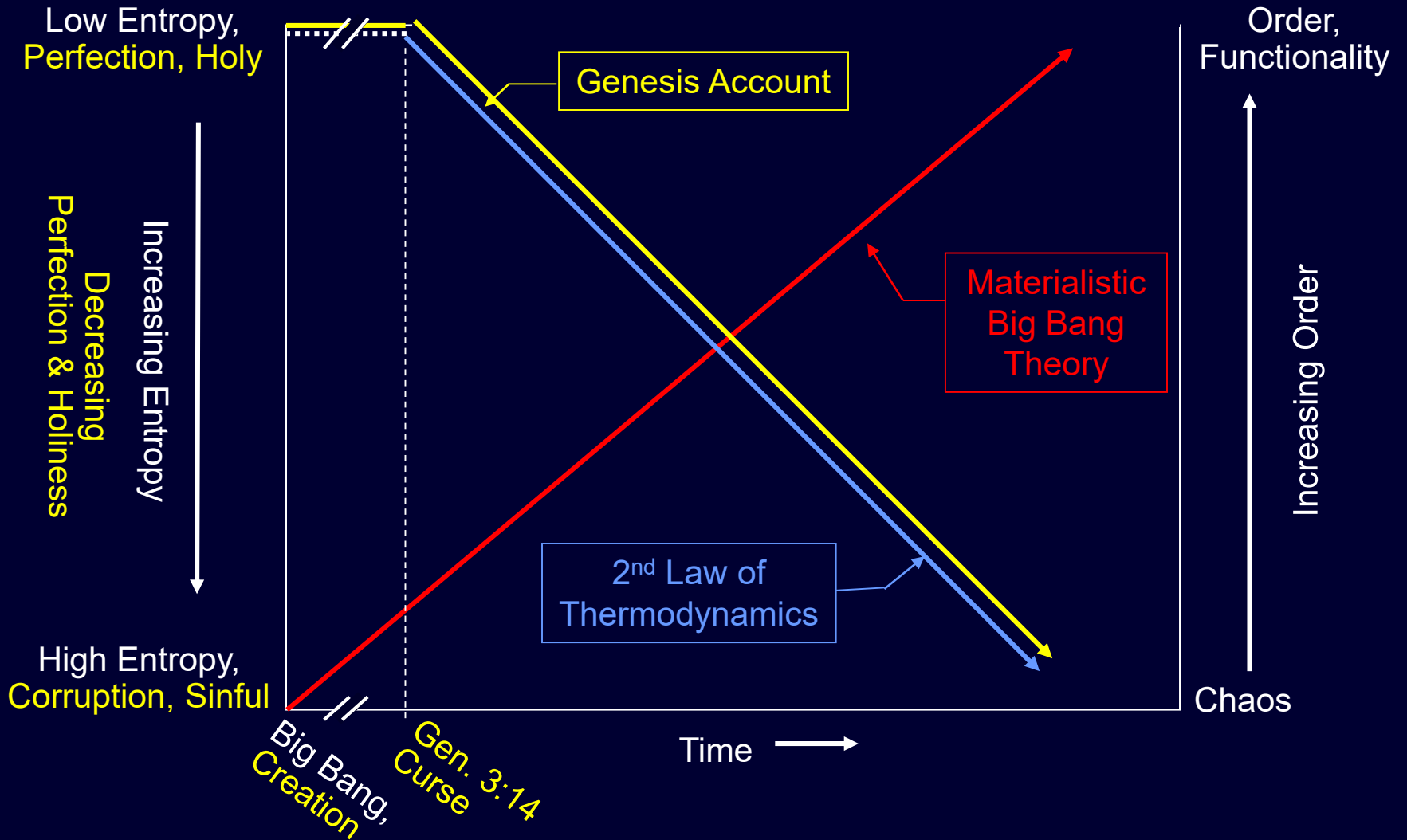
“The creation waits in eager expectation...in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay...”

Romans 8:19-21

The *Materialistic* Big Bang Theory

– VS –

Scripture & the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics



Scripture and Science

Laws of physics are *not* violated by creation:

- There is a First Cause.
(Compatible with Law of Cause & Effect)
- The universe is not a closed system.
(Compatible with 2nd Law)
- “And God saw that it was good.”
 - Creation was initially perfect
(no self ordering required)
 - No need for chaos to order itself.
(Compatible with 2nd Law)



Sir Isaac Newton

(1642 –1727)

Wrote *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, perhaps, the most important book of science ever written.

At the end, he wrote,

“When I wrote my treatise about our System, I had an eye upon such Principles as might work with considering men for the belief of a Deity and nothing can rejoice me more than to find it useful for that purpose.”

