



SPEED OF LIGHT



Young Earth Creationist leaders have a problem trying to explain away the speed of light and how it interferes with their theory that the universe is only 6000 years old. Both real science and the Bible gives us overwhelming evidence that the universe is billions of years old. But again, Ken Ham, Jason Lisle, and the rest of the Young Earth teachers carefully avoid the scriptures that conflict with their theory and have invented a bogus science, called Operational Science, to try to explain away this very damaging evidence.

The scientific fact is this. Light travels at 186,282 miles per second, or about 671 million miles per hour. One light year, which is actually a measurement of distance and not time, is the distance light can travel in one year, and is about 6 trillion miles.

The first time we read in the Bible of stars being seen by humans is in Genesis 15:5, when God speaks to Abram. The verse reads, “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.” Obviously, there was the light from a countless number of stars reaching the earth when Abram looked up into the sky. I’m sure Abram was seeing the light from the Andromeda galaxy at that time.

The Andromeda galaxy is approximately 2.54 million light years from earth. That means the light we are seeing today from Andromeda left that galaxy 2,540,000

years ago. The problem for Young Earth Creationists is this. If the entire universe was created 6000 years ago, then light began traveling from Andromeda at that time and headed towards earth. It has travelled for 6000 years. The leading edge of that light should still be 2,534,000 years away from earth. We should not be seeing that light yet. We should not be able to see Andromeda for another 2.534 million years.

Most Young Earth leaders will concede that the universe is more than 6000 light years across. Even Jason Lisle has to admit that the universe is billions of light years across, because good science has unequivocally proven that fact.

These simple facts would dictate that if we are seeing light from stars billions of light years away, then it is safe to assume that the universe has been in existence for billions of years to allow that light to reach our earth. That's the logical conclusion. But then again, we've determined that most of what Answer In Genesis teaches is not logical. So they must explain this problem to their followers. And they try several methods. This first method is to suggest that light traveled faster in the past than it does now.



In one of Jason Lisle's lectures, he states that everyone assumes that light has always traveled at the same speed, but "perhaps it hasn't." Jason Lisle offers no evidence or Biblical references to back up his claim. This statement is pure speculation. And speculation has no place in establishing any doctrine.

Jason Lisle contradicts himself in another lecture on another subject concerning God's character. He claims that God's laws of nature are constant and can be depended on to be the same today as they always have been.

Jason Lisle is correct in this lecture. The laws of nature do not change over time. Other Answers In Genesis staff, like Dr. Werner Gitt, teach that the laws of nature have been consistent since the creation of the universe.

So why does Jason Lisle's statement in his lecture on the speed of light contradict his other teachings on the laws of nature? Even Lisle teaches that two contradictory statements pose a problem for the presenter. In another lecture, he states that two contradictory statements cannot be correct.

So logically, Jason Lisle cannot state on one hand that the laws of nature, including the speed of light, has been consistent over time, and then on the other hand state that the speed of light may have changed over time. This is another example of how Young Earth Creationists modify their teachings in order for their presentation to fit their young earth theory. And they just can't explain how light from stars billions of light years away is reaching earth today.

I've repeated over and over again in this series that if you can show me evidence in the Bible that confirms your claim, you will convert me. There is nothing in the scriptures that even vaguely suggests that God designed light to travel at different rates of speed at different times. But there are scriptures that overwhelmingly prove that God created light traveling at 186,000 miles per second, and that speed has been constant since it was created. The teachers at Answers In Genesis will never read these scriptures to their audiences. Never.

We read some compelling evidence in Jeremiah 31:35, that reads, "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."

The original Hebrew word for ordinances in "the ordinances of the moon and stars" is *khook-kaw'*, which means to be appointed. The second word ordinances in Hebrew is "*khoke*," which is a decree, or a fixed law or statute. It also means an unwaiverable standard.

Jeremiah 33:25 states, "Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

The word appointed is "*soom*," which means to set or ordain, or to constitute or establish. This verse again states that God ordained and established an unwaiverable standard, the laws of nature that were set in motion when the universe was created.

Psalms 74:16 "The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun." The word prepared is "*koon*," and it means "to be fixed, to be stable and unchangeable, or to be established. The word light is "*maw-ore'*," which

means all transmitted light and brightness. This verse unequivocally states that the natural laws governing the speed of light is the same today as it was at the beginning.

There are more scriptures that talk about God's strict laws of nature, but here we have presented three verses that tell us that God created light at its current speed, and that speed has been consistent since the creations. The Young Earth teachers are unable to find one verse that states otherwise, in fact they don't even try. Jason Lisle is wrong.

Since we have determined that the speed of light has always been the same, and the universe was created all at the same time, then the distance of each star from the earth should determine what period of time we are observing on each star. For instance.

The earth and two galaxies were created at the same time. Galaxy number one is one million light years away. Galaxy number two is ten million light years away. In exactly one million years, we would start seeing the light from Galaxy number one. It would take another nine million years to see the light from galaxy number two. By then, we have already been watching galaxy number one age for nine million years. Although both stars were created at the same time, here on earth we are seeing a brand new galaxy and a galaxy nine million years old.

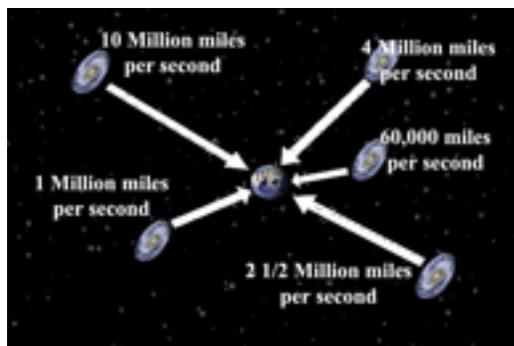
Scientists using good science have determined how galaxies age by comparing those close to earth with those billions of light years away. And they have determined something very interesting as explained by Dr. Hugh Ross, a Christian astrophysicist. Dr. Ross indicates that galaxies that are closer to us are "spread out," and are starting to separate from the core. The edges are becoming "frayed," and consists of what he calls "spurs and feathers." The edges of the galaxy appear to look like a frayed piece of cloth, tattered at the edges.

There is evidence in the Bible that the light we are seeing from stars extreme distances away is much younger than light we are seeing from stars that are close, exactly as Hue Ross explained. And it was likely that the Apostle Paul did not fully understand the real meaning of the inspired words that he wrote about our universe.

Paul wrote in Hebrews 1:10 "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment." The word

heavens is “oo-ran-os” which means “the vaulted expanse of the sky with all things visible in it. The term wax old is “pal-ah-yo’-o,” which means to become old and worn out. What happens when a cloth garment becomes old and worn? It becomes frayed. The edges become tattered and worn, exactly like the old galaxies described by Hue Ross.

This proves one thing. We are seeing the light from galaxies different distances from earth at the speed that light was created when it left those galaxies. To demonstrate how ridiculous Jason Lisle’s claim is, we would have to show that God created different speeds in the light from different stars in order for all of them to be seen on earth at the same time.



The light from a galaxy 10 million light years away would have to travel 10 times the speed of light from a galaxy 1 million light years away in order for the light from each galaxy to reach earth for Adam to see on day four. The dwarf galaxy Sagittarius is only 60,000 light years away, so that light only had to be accelerated over the 60,000 light year distance, much slower than galaxies billions of light

years away. So light headed towards earth from billions of stars and galaxies at different distances would mean that God would have to change billions of light speeds in order for all of the stars to be seen by Adam on day four. Find that in the scriptures somewhere.

Young Earth Creationists realize that their multiple light speed theory will be challenged by real scientists, and they do try to use other theories on their followers. They even attempt the time zone theory, which is about as credible as their multiple light speed theory. Jason Lisle compares the time zones on earth with time traveling through space. He gives an example of an airplane leaving the east coast at 9 AM Boston time and landing in Denver at 9 AM Denver time. Lisle attempts to compare that example with light leaving Andromeda 6000 years ago and reaching earth at the same “local time.”

Anyone who believes this moronic theory has a less than simple mind. The reason we have time zones on earth is because the earth revolves against the sun, and the sun determines our time of day. When you look at the universe in its entirety, you will realize that there is no “local time” as Jason Lisle suggests. You could call this time zone “universal time.” When God created the universe, every planet and star

and galaxy were created at the same time. From that point on, day one on earth is day one on Andromeda. And realistically, year 2,534,000 on Andromeda would be year 2,534,000 on earth. And that is the year the light from Andromeda finally reached earth. To compare time zones on earth with light years in space is absolutely foolish.

Psalm 19:1 reads "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." The word heavens is "shaw-mah'-yim" which means the visible heavens, or the visible universe. It also means abode of the stars. The word sheweth is "naw-gad" which means to inform of, to declare or made known. The word handywork is "mah-as-eh" which simply means the work of God. The creator of the heavens has made it possible for us to learn with good science many of the secrets of the universe. He has given us information in his word describing his creation.

The Young Earth Creationist's refusal to acknowledge any reliable scientific evidence that proves our universe is billions of years old has limited their knowledge to a few misinterpreted Bible passages which they proclaim to their followers proves our earth is only 6000 years old. Whether their teachings are out of ignorance or motivated by an attempt to keep their movement alive, they continue to deceive their following by modifying God's word, promoting a bogus science, and convincing their followers that they are right and everyone else is wrong. And their followers sit in the audience and nod their heads in approval.