

EVENT #4 (recorded In Genesis 1:2-5) -- Gods Mediate Creation of our solar system, comprising a system of planets orbiting the sun and rotating about their own axes, a configuration which not only produced light to shine upon the planet earth, but also provided for a division between day and night upon the earth.

Here I should like to mention a particular scientific theory of the origin of the solar system: the Fowler-Greenstein-Hoyle theory. Now in order for any scientific theory of the origin of the solar system to be called a good theory, it should be able to explain at least five sets of facts:

- (1) The fact that the sun has most of the mass of the solar system (750:1), whereas the planets have most of the angular momentum (200:1).
- (2) The fact that the orbital planes of most of the planets are within five degrees of the mean plane of the system.
- (3) The fact that the planets and their satellites (with only a few exceptions) both orbit and rotate in the same direction as the sun rotates.
- (4) The fact that the planetary orbits are nearly circular.
- (5) The fact that the inner planets are less volatile (i.e., do not vaporize as easily) and more dense than the outer planets.

The Fowler-Greenstein-Hoyle theory of the origin of the solar system proposes that the whole solar system was at first a dark, tenuous nebula which, as it revolved, contracted into a slowly spinning disk. When contraction was well advanced, this disk began to glow. The center of the disk, contracting still further, became the hot sun. The gaseous outer portion of the disk, magnetically connected to the spinning sun, moved outward and condensed to form the orbiting planets.

There are three reasons why I mention this particular scientific theory:

- (1) Most of the contemporary theories of the origin of the solar system are similar to the Fowler-Greenstein-Hoyle theory.
- (2) This theory is not in conflict with the biblical facts, but fits them rather well. The dark, tenuous, disk-shaped-nebula concept fits rather well with the biblical statement, "And the earth was without form (or unformed), and empty; and darkness was upon the face of the deep."
- (3) This theory fits the scientific data quite well.

This fourth event, the creation of our solar system, provided for both light and for day and night, since it is the earth's rotating motion in relation to the sun that gives us the alternating periods of daylight and darkness which we know as day and night. This is in perfect accord with the scriptural account in which we read, "And God