

GEOCENTRISM:

DOES THE EARTH MOVE?

IS THE EARTH LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

By George Lujack

The geocentric Earth-centered universe belief has been experiencing a revival recently among some within Christianity. This article will examine the geocentric model of the universe, the heliocentric model, the helical model, and Scripture-related verses used in justifying the geocentric model to determine if Scripture actually supports the theory that the Earth does not move and is located at the center of the universe.

geocentrism:

The belief that the Earth is the center of the universe, does not move, and that the Sun, the planets, and all the stars revolve around the Earth [1] [2].

The geocentric model of the universe is a description of the cosmos in which Earth is at the orbital center of all the universe's celestial bodies. The geocentric model was developed in earlier civilizations from ancient Greece and throughout Rome, and, in spite of scientific evidences against the geocentric model it has been experiencing a revival of sorts among some in Christian circles.

There are two main foundational reasons for the belief in geocentrism:

1. From the perspective of an Earth-bound observer, the Earth does not appear to move. The stars, the Sun, and planets appear to revolve around the Earth each day, making the Earth appear to be the center of the universe.
2. There are Scripture verses that proclaim that the Earth does not move.

A problem with determining Earth's place in the universe is that we are trying to do so while being bound upon Earth, with the limited understanding of the universe that we have. Geocentrists fail to understand, or ignore the fact, that from the perception of being on Earth, we are like fish in a fishbowl. If a fish inside of a fishbowl had a mind, it would view its fishbowl as the center of the universe. Everything else it observed, its outer surroundings beyond its glass bowl, people coming and going, etc., would be viewed as revolving around its fishbowl. The fish would observe that its fishbowl does not move. Even if you placed the fishbowl in a commercial airplane, traveling smoothly at 500 mph (800 kph), the fish would observe that its fishbowl is stable and does not move, even though it is in a plane traveling at high rate of speed. From the fish's relative perspective, its fishbowl appears to be the center of the universe, it apparently is not moving, and everything in its observable universe seems to be revolving around it.

There is no verse in all of Scripture that proclaims that the Earth is the center of the universe. Geocentrism is deduced based on the following Scripture verses. (NOTE: The KJV, NKJV, and HSV translations are shown when there are some slight English word translation differences):

1 CHRONICLES 16:30 (KJV):

The world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

1 CHRONICLES 16:30 (NKJV):

The world also is firmly established; it shall not be moved.

PSALM 93:1:

Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

PSALM 96:10:

The world also is firmly established; it shall not be moved.

PSALM 104:5 (KJV):

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

PSALM 104:5 (NKJV):

You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever.

A literal translation is understood by geocentrists to mean that the Earth does not move and *therefore* the entire universe revolves around the Earth. To apply this literal interpretation and scientific application of it to the Earth, the Sun, the Solar System, and the universe would be erroneous.

The context of what is spoken of in these verses pertains to the Earth's stability. The oceans move, the wind blows, the Earth moves via tectonic plates, and the Earth moves during earthquakes. Scripture also declares that the Earth moves and turns:



JOB 38:14 (KJV):

It [EARTH] is turned as clay to the seal [ON A POTTER'S WHEEL]; and they [THE CLOUDS - JOB 38:9] stand as a garment.

JOB 38:14 (HS):

It [EARTH] is changed like clay under a seal [OF A POTTER'S WHEEL]; and they [THE CLOUDS - JOB 38:9] stand out like a garment.

PSALM 99:1:

Let the earth be moved!

The Earth moves, but is stable and does not move on its surface; is stable in orbit and does not move out of orbit. A proper way to scientifically apply, interpret, and understand Scripture's declaration that the Earth "does not move" in regards to the universe is thus:

1 CHRONICLES 16:30 (KJV):

The world also shall be stable [IN ORBIT], that it be not moved [OUT OF ORBIT].

1 CHRONICLES 16:30 (NKJV):

The world also is firmly established [IN ORBIT]; it shall not be moved [OUT OF ORBIT].

PSALM 93:1 (NKJV):

Surely the world is established [IN ORBIT], so that it cannot be moved [OUT OF ORBIT].

PSALM 96:10:

The world also is firmly established [IN ORBIT]; it shall not be moved [OUT OF ORBIT].

PSALM 104:5 (KJV):

Who laid the foundations of the earth [IN ORBIT], that it should not be removed [FROM ITS ORBIT] for ever.

PSALM 104:5 (NKJV):

You who laid the foundations of the earth [IN ORBIT], so that it should not be moved [FROM ITS ORBIT] forever.

Geocentrists believe that the Earth is fixed in space, not orbiting the Sun, not rotating, and not moving at all. Scripture disputes this claim.

JOB 26:7:

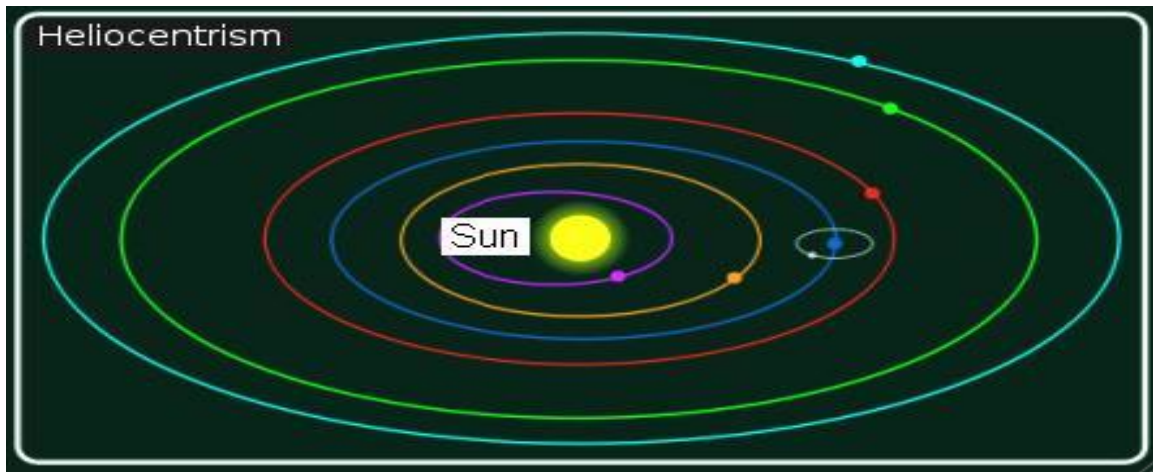
He hangs the earth ON NOTHING.

The Earth, while hurling through space, is not fixed in space or locked into position at the center of the universe; it hangs on nothing. God hangs the Earth *on nothing*. 'Nothing' cannot prevent the Earth from moving; only *something* can prevent the Earth from moving through space. The Earth does not rest on *physical* pillars and is hanging in the vacuum of empty space (nothing). Even if geocentrists claim that God supernaturally keeps the Earth from moving, that would not be 'nothing,' that would be God, through the power of His Holy Spirit, using something to hold the Earth motionless in space. Scripture does not make the claim that the Earth is fixed in space, but simply states that it hangs on nothing.

Gravity holds the Earth in place, in orbit around the Sun. Gravity consists of 'nothing' and God hangs the Earth on nothing, *but gravity*. A scientific interpretation of Job 26:7 should be understood as:

JOB 26:7:

He hangs the earth [IN ORBIT] on nothing [BUT GRAVITY].



heliocentrism:

The astronomical model in which the Earth and planets revolve around the Sun at the center of the Solar System.

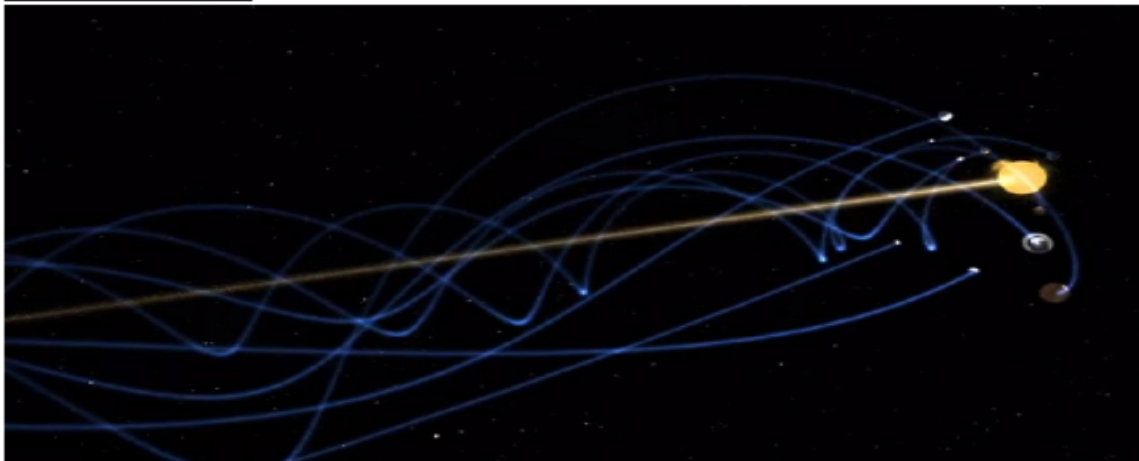
Galileo, the Italian astronomer, engineer, mathematician, and philosopher championed heliocentrism, and for doing so got himself into trouble by a Roman Catholic Inquisition in 1615, was forced to recant, and spent the rest of his life under house arrest. Galileo understood that smaller objects would be 'moved' by the gravity fields of larger objects.

The heliocentric model of the universe is in line with observable science and the geocentric model is not. We know and observe that smaller objects are gravitationally attracted to larger objects and are 'moved' by them. In our own Solar System, we observe moons orbiting their larger planets. The smaller Earth revolves around the much larger Sun.

In 1971, on an Apollo 15 Moon walk, astronaut David Scott demonstrated that a hammer and feather, with no atmosphere resistance to slow down the descent of the feather, were equally caught under the gravity of the Moon and they dropped to its surface at the same rate of speed [3].

The heliocentric model of the universe applies scientific principles and known observable science to its model of the Sun-centered Solar System, while the geocentric model completely ignores science and applies misinterpreted Scripture verses as a basis for its view of the Earth-centered Solar System.

Helical model



In 2012, DjSadhu, a self-described music producer, video artist, developer, and researcher produced a video of the Sun and the Solar System that he called the helical model, claiming that the Solar System operated like a vortex. In the video, he claims that the Sun is like a comet, dragging the planets in its wake, creating a spiraling vortex [4].

While this recent helical model properly indicates the movement of the Sun, as it does move in a spiral orbit around the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, it ignores the observable science that our Solar System and other galaxies are disc-shaped. Another scientific problem with the helical model is that in spiraling vortexes, the rotation continually spirals down. If the planets were rotating in a spiraling vortex trailing the Sun, they would eventually spiral down and fall in line directly behind the Sun, in its wake.

The helical model would be a more scientifically accurate model if it showed the Sun in motion and the planets revolving around the Sun on the same plane, rotating around a moving Sun, towards the center and then away from the center of the Milky Way Galaxy.

THE PRINCIPLE (MOVIE)

The Principle is a 2014 film questioning the Copernican principle and advances the philosophy of geocentrism. The Copernican principle, named after Nicolaus Copernicus, states that the Earth is not in any special favored or central location in the universe.



The Principle movie makes a lot of bold unsubstantiated claims, such as, “Science has found evidence that Earth is the center of the universe.”

Science has found no such evidence. The Earth may very well be somewhere near the center of the observable universe. Stars can be observed in the night sky in every direction that we point our telescopes. This may indicate that the Milky Way Galaxy is near the center of the universe, but there is absolutely no direct scientific evidence to claim that the Earth is an unmoving planet located at the center of the universe or that the universe revolves around the Earth.

Modern-day geocentrists make the claim that the Earth is at the center of the universe and held in an unmoving dead-center position by all the universe's celestial bodies that pull on it equally in all directions. The Moon's gravity pulls on the Earth's waters, shifting their position on the planet, causing tidal movement. Geocentrists claim that while the Earth's waters move, the Earth itself does not. That claim is not scientifically plausible. The reason we see the Earth's waters move, and not the Earth itself, is because liquid water is more flexible than the Earth's landmasses and shifts accordingly due to the Moon's gravitational pull exerted over them. If the Earth were at the center of the universe, in a perfect dead-center locked position and not affected by the gravitational pull of any celestial body, then the Earth's waters would likewise not be affected by the Moon's gravitational pull on them.

The entire premise of *The Principle* is that either the geocentric (alleged biblical) model of the Earth and universe is correct, or the Big Bang Theory is correct. Either the Earth is at the center of the universe and we are significant, or the Earth is not at the center of the universe and we are insignificant.

If the Earth were hypothetically located at the edge or the outer portion of the observable universe, would mankind - made in God's image, be insignificant? If being centrally located in the universe indicates significance, shouldn't heaven, God's dwelling place, be at the center of the universe and thus the universe should therefore revolve around Him in heaven? Is not God more significant than His creation?

Evolution-minded Big Bang theorists propose that the universe is one large cosmic accident and we are all insignificant beings created from leftover stardust. Geocentrists claim that Earth is God's creation located at the center of the universe and we are significant. It is not an either / or proposition choice between these two theories; there are other possibilities. The Copernican model of the Solar System does not negate God, nor does it declare the Big Bang Theory to be true.

There are three classifications of galaxies: elliptical, spiral, and irregular. In all the known galaxies, stars are observed revolving around their galaxy core centers - presumably with planets revolving around those stars, and moons revolving around those planets. Geocentrists would have us believe that of all the billions of galaxies in the universe (current estimate 100-200 billion), the laws of physics work differently in the Milky Way. Planet Earth, according to geocentrists, bound by nothing (Job 26:7), is not only the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, where the Sun and the planets of the Solar System revolve around it, but Earth is also the center of the entire universe which also revolves around it.

PSALM 19:1:

The heavens declare the glory of God.

We do not need to close our eyes to observable science and believe in geocentrism in order to believe that we are significant. We are created in the image of God and that is what makes us significant (Genesis 1:26). The universe is God's creation and declares the glory of God; the universe does not declare the significance of man.

1. Wordnik, < <https://www.wordnik.com/words/geocentrism> >.
2. RationalWiki, < <http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Geocentrism> >.
3. "Hammer vs Feather - Physics on the Moon," YouTube, < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDp1tiUsZw8> >.
4. "The heliocentric model - our solar system is a vortex," YouTube, < https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jHsq36_NTU >.