

Creation and Intelligent Design



Week 1

Welcome to the
Neighborhood!

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Benefits of this Study

- Deeper appreciation for God's love and care
- Help answering "tough" questions
- Biblical and scientific "conversation starters"
- Fun and interesting study of what makes our world "tick"
- Increased faith! God's creation is AMAZING!


Slides, notes and links at: www.gregnordstrom.com

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his
hands. Day after day they pour forth
speech; night after night they display
knowledge. There is no speech or
language where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.*

- Psalm 19:1-4, NIV

Who's not affected by "speech" like this?



A wide-field astronomical image showing a vast field of stars. In the center, there is a prominent, elongated cluster of bright blue stars. Scattered throughout the field are numerous other stars of various colors, including yellow, orange, and red. Two particularly bright yellow stars are located in the upper left and upper right corners, both exhibiting prominent four-pointed diffraction spikes. The background is a deep, dark black, making the individual points of light stand out sharply.

Or this?

Fast Facts: Counting Stars

How many stars can you see at night?

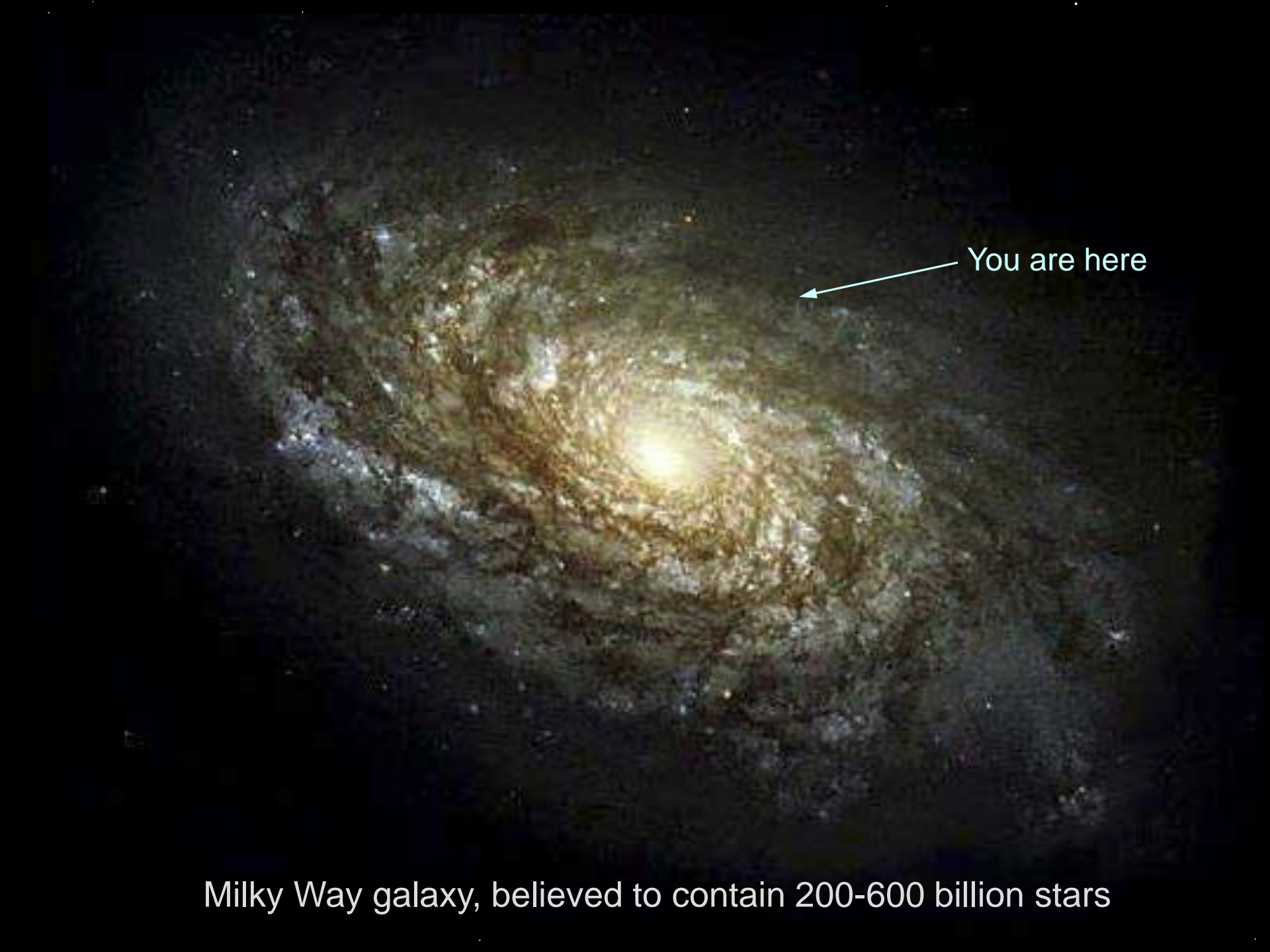
- Hipparchus – **1026**
- Ptolemy – **1056**
- Johannes Kepler – **1005**
- Galileo with his telescope – **3310**
- Today, our most powerful telescopes can see **25 sextillion stars** (out of estimated **70 sextillion!**)



70,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

(Equal to grains of sand on beaches of **10,000 earths!**)

(Yet, there are **100,000 times** that many atoms in you!)



You are here

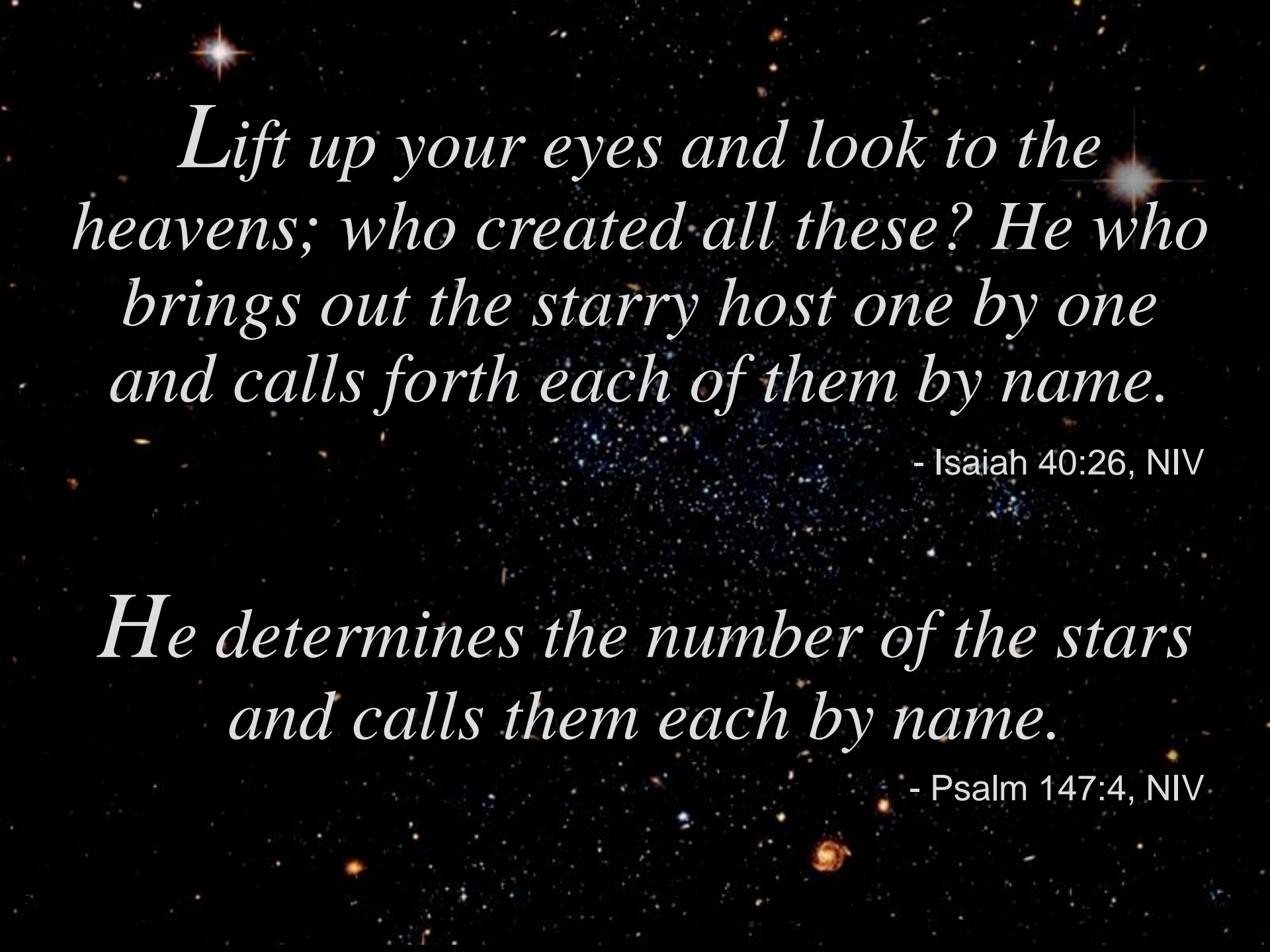
Milky Way galaxy, believed to contain 200-600 billion stars



Andromeda galaxy, our nearest spiral galaxy neighbor



Sombrero galaxy (M104) discovered in 1767



Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens; who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.

- Isaiah 40:26, NIV

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

- Psalm 147:4, NIV

Astronomical Distances and Sizes

Powers of 10

A film dealing with the relative size of things in the universe and the effect of adding another zero

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

- Heb 11:3, NIV

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...

- 1 Pet 5:6a, NIV

Christian Science—Say *What?*

- Bible and science in **full agreement**...
...as much as we understand each one!
- Science, religion answer ***different questions***
 - Science: ***What*** and ***how*** of the universe
 - Weight, size, speed, distance
 - Religion: ***Who*** and ***why?***
- “***The Scientific Method***”
 - **Logic and observation** are all you need to recognize **evidence of creation**



His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...

- Rom 1:20, NASB

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

- I Thes 5:21, NASB

Facts and Fiction

Science Myths

- Hard facts
- Provable answers
- Science is ultimate “truth” of the universe

Science Truths

- “*Perception is reality*”
- Science is often wrong
- Theories can only be **disproved**, not proved

What **color** is my shirt?

Can you prove your answer? How?

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- Heb 11:1-3, NASB

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We know Christians need faith...

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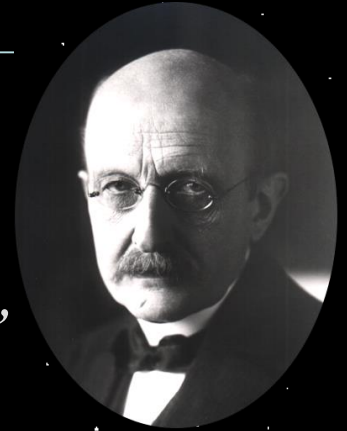
- Heb 11:1-3, NASB

...but Science is about faith, too!

Max Planck, 1858-1947

Theoretical physicist and pioneer in thermodynamic theory

*Over the doorway to the temple of Science
are written the words 'Thou must have faith.'*



Dr. Arthur H. Compton, 1892-1962

University of Chicago Professor of Physics and Nobel Laureate

*It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for it is
incontrovertible that where there is a plan there is
intelligence—an orderly, unfolding universe testifies to
the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered—
'In the beginning God...'*



Homework

- *Carefully* read **Genesis 1:1-5**
- Compare this with what science says about the origin of things

