



CREATOR

VOLUME 14

NUMBER 2

PLANETS OF GOD'S HOLINESS

*"Who among the gods is like You, O LORD?
Who is like You—majestic in holiness, awesome in
glory, working wonders" (Exodus 15:11)?*

Professor Seismo¹ sinks deep into his favorite rocking chair, bathed by the flickering, amber glow of the nearby flames. Three grandchildren, Rick—ten, Josh—seven, and Kelsey—four, sit at his feet with their bright eyes riveted on the white-haired gentleman towering above them. As he spins a tale of adventure in the soft warmth of a fireplace, little does Seismo know that youthful queries will soon put him to the test!



Professor Seismo: "Mercury is nearer the Sun than any other planet, but Venus—the next closest to the Sun—is the hottest planet in the Solar System."

Rick: "How hot does Venus get, Grandpa?"

Professor Seismo: "Almost 900° F! The sunny side of Mercury hits 870° F—Grandma's oven only reaches 550° F."²

¹ Professor Seismo (pronounced SIZE - mo) is a fictitious character.
² Venus is over 470° C; Mercury is 465° C; an oven reaches 288° C.

Rick: "Wow! But, why is Venus hotter than Mercury?"

Professor Seismo: "Jesus put a heavy blanket of gas around Venus. Mercury has almost no air."

Josh: "So the blanket keeps Venus nice and toasty?"

Professor Seismo: "Yes, very toasty, Josh!"

Kelsey: "Did ya bake cookies on Vena?"

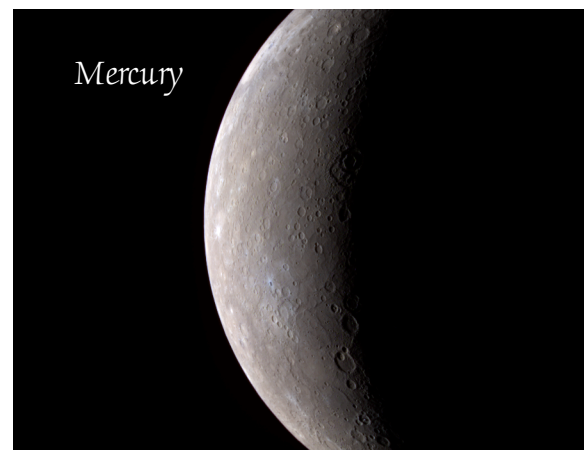
Professor Seismo: "No, Sweetheart. I didn't bake any cookies, but I did stay on Venus and Mercury long enough to learn a few things."

Rick: "Like what, Grandpa Seismo?"

Professor Seismo: "Venus is about the same size as Earth, but Mercury is much smaller. A year on Mercury is only 88 days long, but a "day" on Venus lasts 243 Earth days!" (The grandchildren look confused.)

"Venus is rich with active volcanoes and dried lava covers much of its surface. *The Sun rises in the west*—not the east—and its sky is choked with clouds of sulfuric acid. The Venusian atmosphere is so thick and dense that anyone on the surface would be crushed under its weight. It's impossible to live on Venus or Mercury!"

Josh: "How'd ya git to these planets, Grandpa?"



The surface of Mercury is dotted with millions of craters.



Venus

Professor Seismo: “I built a spaceship and Grandma designed a special spacesuit so I could go exploring.”

Josh: “Did ya go anywhere else?”

Professor Seismo: “Oh, yes! I visited most of the planets Jesus made. My next stop was Mars.”

Rick: “Did you meet any Martians?”

Professor Seismo: “No, Kiddo, there’s no such thing as Martians. In fact, God didn’t put any people or animals or plants on Mars. Mars is a beautiful place, but it’s as barren as a desert. Like Venus, it has mountains and valleys, volcanoes and craters. It’s about one half the size of earth, but its year is twice as long as ours.”

Rick: “Why is Mars orange?”

Professor Seismo: “Because it’s turned to rust.”
(Giggles are heard coming from the grandchildren.)

Professor Seismo: “No, really! One-fourth of the planet is made of iron, and it’s all rusty. Red dust gets blown around in the air, making the Martian sky a pale pink.”

Kelsey: “Oooo, I wanna go there!”

Professor Seismo: “At one time, Mars must have had water, because its surface is scarred by river beds.”

Josh: “Did ya go swimming?”

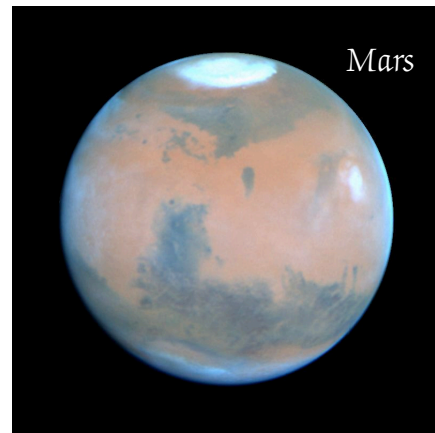
Professor Seismo: “Well, no, Josh. Mars doesn’t have any lakes now. And I didn’t dare take off my spacesuit.”

Rick: “Why not?”

Professor Seismo: “Poisonous carbon dioxide is everywhere on Mars and there’s virtually no oxygen. Without special clothes and a protective helmet, I would have died.”

Josh: “Ohhh!”

Professor Seismo: “But I enjoyed seeing Mars. Did you know that Mars has the largest volcano in the Solar



System? Scientists call it *Olympus Mons*. It’s three times taller than Mount Everest!”

Rick: “Is Mars hot like Mercury and Venus?”

Professor Seismo: “In the middle of summer, Mars can reach 80° F at the equator, but most of the time it’s very, very cold.”³

Josh: “Where’d ya go next, Grandpa?”

Professor Seismo: “To Jupiter, biggest planet of them all.”

Josh: “JOO - PIT - RRR? That’s a funny name!”

Professor Seismo: “Yes, it is. A long time ago people gave the planets the names of the ‘gods’ they worshiped. It makes me sad.”

Rick: “Why, Grandpa Seismo?”

Professor Seismo: “Because Jesus created the planets, and yet most people aren’t giving Him any credit.”

Rick: “Jupiter is pretty far away, isn’t it Grandpa?”

Professor Seismo: “Oh, yes, 500 million miles from the Sun!”

Josh: “Grandpa Seismo, what’s a ‘million?’”

(Professor Seismo appears a bit stumped. How can he easily explain what a million is?)

Professor Seismo: “It would take you eleven and a half days to count to a million if you didn’t stop to eat or sleep!”

The children in unison: “Whoa!” (At this point, he could say that outer space is made of chocolate syrup, and they would believe him. He still has their attention!)

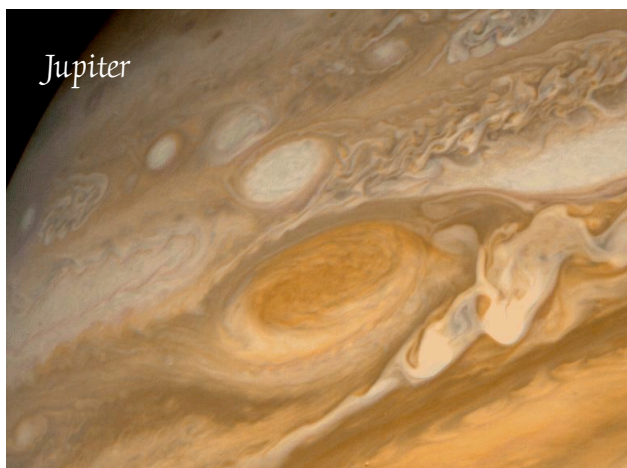
Professor Seismo: “Like I said, Jupiter is the largest planet. It’s so big that if our Lord Jesus had made it hollow, He could have fit a thousand Earths inside.”

Josh: “Where’d Jesus git so many Earths?”

Professor Seismo: “Oh, Jesus didn’t really put a thousand Earths inside Jupiter, but He could have if He had wanted to!

³ Eighty degrees Fahrenheit (F) is 27 degrees Celcius (C). Mars can dip down to minus 190 degrees F or minus 123 degrees C.





Jupiter

"I then left Jupiter and went to the second-largest planet, Saturn. Do you know what Saturn looks like?"

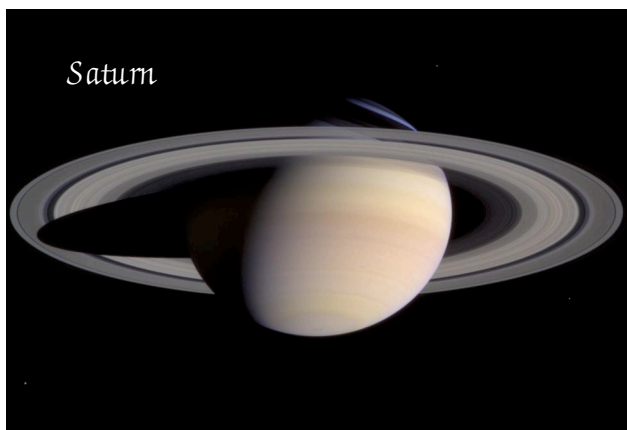
Josh: "It's the one with a race track around its belly!"

Professor Seismo: "That's right—they call the 'race track' *rings*. Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune also have rings, but they are very faint and hard to see. Saturn's rings are thousands of miles wide, but less than a mile thick—so from a distance they look extremely thin, like paper. It's strange, but each of the rings is made from chunks of ice and dust; think of them as millions of ice cubes orbiting Saturn."

Josh: "Did God make them in His refrigerator?"
(Professor Seismo does not know what to say.)

Rick: "Why did Jesus make the rings, Grandpa?"

Professor Seismo: "I suppose to show us how wonderful He is! If you look carefully at Saturn and Jupiter you can also see lots of bands, which are called *belts* and *zones*. These bands give Jupiter and Saturn



Saturn

spectacular beauty—dimly reflecting Christ's beauty.

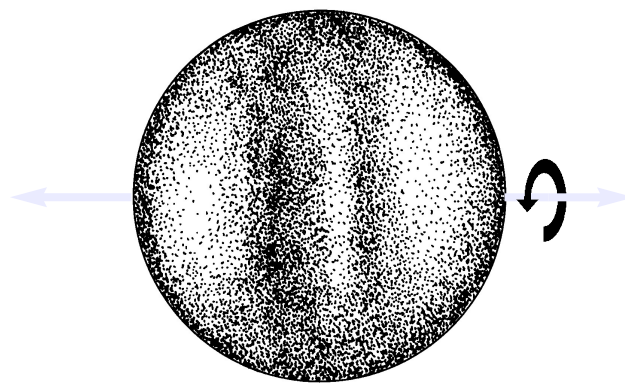
"Next, I rocketed to Uranus, a gigantic, blue-green planet. Did you know that God laid Uranus on its side?"

Rick: "What do you mean, Grandpa?"

Professor Seismo: "All planets in the Solar System spin like tops—some faster, some slower. Earth rotates all the way around once every 24 hours. Thus, an Earth day is 24 hours long. Jupiter and Saturn spin very fast for their size—their days last only 10 hours. A day on Venus, however, equals eight months because it rotates so slowly."

Josh: "Ya'd have plenty of time for a nap on Venus, huh, Grandpa?" (We hear giggles coming from the grandchildren again and a big grin spreads across Professor Seismo's blushing face.)

Professor Seismo: "Just enough, I suppose. Uranus spins like all the other planets, except it's lying on its side."



Uranus

Kelsey: "Cuz it's tired, Gampa?"

Professor Seismo: "Maybe so! After Uranus, I went on to Neptune. Now, Neptune is three billion miles from here. It took four hours for my radio messages to reach Grandma on Earth."

Josh: "What did ya see when ya landed on Neptune?"

Professor Seismo: "Well, I didn't land on Neptune, or Uranus, or Saturn, or Jupiter."

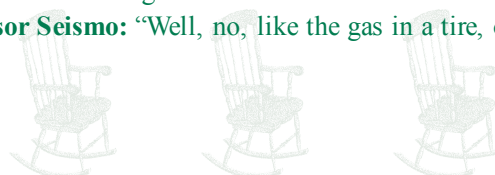
(The kids seem really disappointed.)

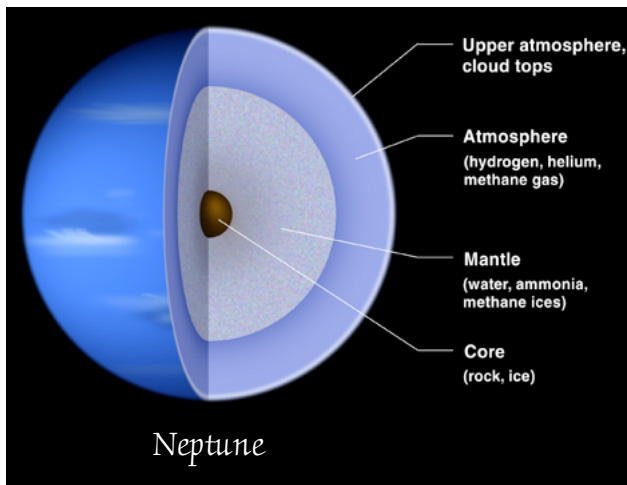
Children: "Why not?"

Professor Seismo: "These four planets are very special—God made them from gas."

Josh: "Like from a gas station?"

Professor Seismo: "Well, no, like the gas in a tire, or





the gas you breathe. Only, the gas on these planets is mostly hydrogen and helium.”

Rick: “I know what helium is—it’s the stuff they put in floaty balloons!”

Professor Seismo: “That’s right! And did you know that Saturn is composed of so much gas that it would also float if Jesus placed it into a super-colossal bathtub?”

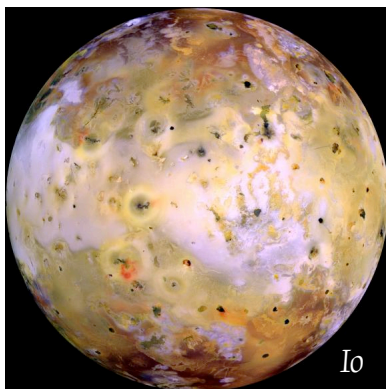
Rick: “Really?!”

Professor Seismo: “What’s more, the atmosphere of Neptune is extremely turbulent—I recorded wind speeds of 1,200 miles per hour!”⁴

Kelsey: “Did ya fly a kite?”

Professor Seismo: “No, Kelsey, I didn’t get a chance to fly a kite, but I did explore a couple of moons while I was out in space.”

Josh: “Which ones?”



Professor Seismo: “At Jupiter, I briefly set foot on one of its bigger moons, called Io.⁵ It is a very strange but wonderful place! Io has many volcanoes, and Jesus painted the whole surface of the moon with bright orange and black lava, giving it an eerie orange-red appearance. I took a sample of the air while I was there and it smelled like rotten eggs. WHEW!!”

Kelsey: “Gampa, you’re silly!”

Professor Seismo: “I’ve been told that before.”

Josh: “Did it smell bad cuz Jesus’ refrigerator stopped working?”

Professor Seismo: “No, Sweetie, it’s because there’s sulfur everywhere. It comes from the many volcanoes, and it’s the sulfur that smells really bad.”⁶

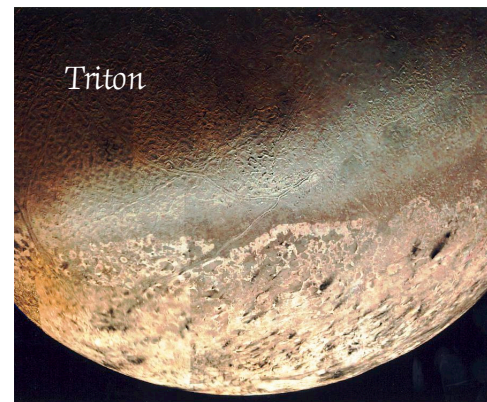
Rick: “How many moons does Jupiter have?”

Professor Seismo: “Sixty three! And Saturn has 60, Uranus has 27, and Neptune, 13.”

Children: “Whoa!”

Professor Seismo: “At Saturn, I flew by its biggest moon, Titan. The air surrounding Titan is colored orange. Kinda reminded me of a humongous tangerine! And while at Neptune I briefly visited Triton.”

Josh: “I thought ya said that ‘Trident’ was Saturn’s moon?”



Professor Seismo: “Oh, these names are so confusing! Saturn has a moon called TIE - TAN, and Neptune has one named TRY - TON.” (Seismo sees that the kids look somewhat confused and they are getting restless.)

Professor Seismo: “Try to remember it this way—Jesus uses the gravity of Saturn to ‘Titan’ its rings.”

(The kids still look confused!)

Josh: “Did you like ‘Trident?’”

4 1,930 kilometers per hour

5 Pronounced EYE - oh

6 Read about sulfur in **HIDDEN TREASURES** Volume 3 Number 4.

Professor Seismo: “Neptune’s moon? *Triton* was fascinating, but SO VERY COLD—the coldest place in the Solar System, as far as we know!” ⁷

Josh: “Did ya gitta chance ta make a snowman?”

Professor Seismo: “Well, no. There wasn’t any snow—not like the snow here on earth, at least.” (They look confused again. They are really getting tired and he has to think fast!)

Professor Seismo: “I mean, there’s snow, but it’s not made from water, it’s made from a gas called nitrogen and a gas called methane.” (There is silence followed by blank stares. Professor Seismo nervously clears his throat. He is losing his audience!)

Professor Seismo: “It...it really is a fascinating place. From space, Triton appears pink!”

Kelsey: “Oooo, I wanna go there!”

Professor Seismo: “And it has geysers.”

Josh: “Like the ones at Yellow Phone Natural Park!”

Professor Seismo: “Well, *Yellowstone National Park* has geysers of hot water, but Triton has geysers of liquid nitrogen—BRRR, very cold!”

Josh: “Did ya go to Pluto?”

Professor Seismo: “No, it’s too hard to get there. Pluto is so far away that if we stood on its surface hoping to see a pretty sunrise, what we’d see instead is the Sun peeking above the horizon as a bright star.

It takes 250 years for Pluto to make a trip around the Sun, which means that on Pluto a year is 250 Earth-years long. If you lived on Pluto, you’d never celebrate your birthday!”

Kelsey: “I don’t wanna go there!”

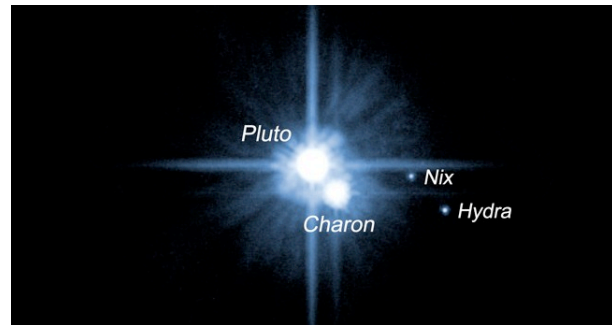
Professor Seismo: “Did you know that many astronomers don’t think of Pluto as an official planet any more?”

Josh: “Why not, Grandpa?” (The kids seem disappointed.)

Professor Seismo: “Because it’s *so small*. But it does have something even the planets Mercury and Venus don’t have—moons! Pluto has at least three moons: Charon, Nix, and Hydra.”

Rick: “It must be *really* cold on Pluto!”

Professor Seismo: “Rick, you’re probably right. I would assume it’s as cold as Triton.”



Pluto and its three moons: Charon, Nix, and Hydra

Josh: “Are ya glad to be home, Grandpa?”

Professor Seismo: “Oh, yes, Josh, I am! This trip really showed me how nice a place Earth is to live on—with all the water and blue sky, green grass and animals.”

Rick: “Could people live on other planets?”

Professor Seismo: “Without spacesuits, only a few seconds. Remember, Mercury and Venus are really hot; we would burn up there. Mars and Venus have poisonous air. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are so far from the sun that they are very, very cold, and there’s no land to walk on. Even if there was a place on which to stand, we’d all be smashed under the tremendous weight of their atmospheres.”

Rick: “How come Jesus made planets we can’t live on?”

Professor Seismo: “I suppose so that we would stay here on Earth and learn to love one another. Besides, He *enjoyed* making these beautiful worlds. Most of all, however, I think they reflect how holy He is!”

Josh: “What does ‘holy’ mean, Grandpa Seismo?”

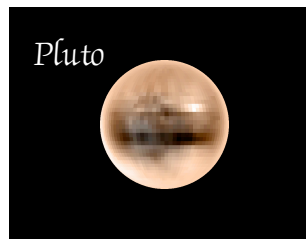
Rick: “OH...OH, I KNOW! It’s like when Mom says I’m bein’ a good boy.”

Professor Seismo: “Very close, Rick. Holy is a word that describes who God is. It’s similar to Dad or Mom calling you ‘good,’ which is the opposite of ‘bad.’”

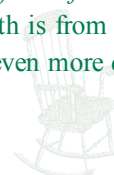
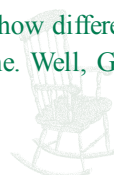
Rick: “What’s the opposite of holy?”

Professor Seismo: “*We’re* the opposite of holy, Rick, because we frequently disobey God and sin! Have you ever done something Mom or Dad told you not to do?” (All the children nod sheepishly.)

Professor Seismo: “That’s the opposite of being holy. God is holy because He never sins and He is perfect. His angels are holy because they obey Him—they magnify His character. *God is different from us, very different.* Think how different Earth is from the planets Venus and Neptune. Well, God is even more different compared to



⁷ Minus 391° F or minus 235° C



us! But God wants us to be like Him, and that's why Jesus died on a cross. Without Christ, we can't be friends with God. If we tried to talk face to face with Him on our own, we'd burn up in His holiness. We'd probably have a better chance surviving on Mercury without a spacesuit! On our own, we can never be friends with God."

Josh: "That makes me sad!"

Professor Seismo: "Don't be sad, Josh. If you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, He will become your 'spacesuit,' then you can be with His awesome Father forever."

Rick: "Spacesuit, Grandpa? How can Jesus be our spacesuit?" (Professor Seismo picks up the Bible next to his chair and turns to the middle.)

Professor Seismo: "Listen to what the prophet Isaiah said:

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices
in my God. For He has clothed me with
garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe
of righteousness....⁸

Does anyone know what garments are?"

Rick: "Clothes?"

Professor Seismo: "That's right! So who is the garment of salvation?"

Josh: "Jesus?"

Professor Seismo: "Yes, very good! Just as an astronaut puts on layers of clothing to protect himself from the harshness of space, we need protection to stand before the holy God of the universe. None of us is good enough to live with God in Heaven. Like going to Mercury or Venus without a spacesuit, we can't survive God's burning purity on our own. You see, Jesus covers over our sins, so we can be holy like His Father."⁹

Josh: "Kinda like changin' my pants when they git dirty, huh, Grandpa?"

Professor Seismo: "Kind of, except when you're in Heaven and Jesus has His arms wrapped around you, you'll never get 'dirty' again! Say, I just saw Grandma with milk and cookies! Does anyone want some?"

Jesus can give you something far better than milk and cookies—*Himself*! Like Professor Seismo said, Christ died on a cross so that your sins can be forgiven. He will allow you to experience the brilliant holiness of His Father in eternity if you surrender your life to Him and believe that He rose from the dead. Please don't put it off—now is the best time!

Dear God, I recognize that I have lived my life my own way and that you consider this sin. Please forgive me through your Son, Jesus Christ—because of His death on the cross. Jesus, I trust you and what you did on the cross to take the punishment for my sin. I want you to become my King and my God. I accept your gift of eternal life. Show me how to live the way you want me to live. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.

For this is what the high and lofty One says—

He who lives forever, whose name is holy:

"I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57:15



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- 4 NASA images
- 5 Eliot Young (SwRI) et al., NASA
- 6 NASA image

⁸ Isaiah 61:10

⁹ Please read Romans 5:9 and Revelation 15:2.