

CREATOR

VOLUME 29

NUMBER 1

HIS BURNING LOVE PART 2

Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?

He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of His might and because He is strong in power, not one is missing.

Isaiah 40:26

Professor and Mrs. Seismo¹ are on vacation somewhere in Australia. At their campsite, Dr. Seismo stands, peering intently into the night sky. His eyes are fixed on the Large Magellanic Cloud, a galaxy not far from Earth.

Professor Seismo: “You know, Heidi, we’re getting a pretty good look at Christ’s meekness tonight. No new stars have exploded up there!”

Mrs. Seismo: “What do you mean, Hans?”

Professor Seismo: “Without God’s firm hand of control on everything, the universe would erupt into flames!”

Mrs. Seismo: “Oh, my, you’re scaring me!”

Professor Seismo turns to look at his wife. Seeing her concerned expression, a big, warm smile comes across his face, crinkling the skin around his eyes. He walks over to where she’s sitting and puts his arm around her.

Professor Seismo: “Sweetheart, just because the universe *could* blow up, doesn’t mean it will. Our loving God has everything under His sovereign rule. That’s what I mean when I speak of *Christ’s meekness—power under control.*” *Mrs. Seismo glances up at her husband’s seasoned, yet gentle face and breathes a sigh of relief.*

“You see, Heidi, our Heavenly Father has packed a lot of energy into all the things He has made: the wood of our fire, the rocks we’re sitting on, our Sun and the other stars . . . even us. And through His Son, all is as it should be!”

Mrs. Seismo: “I’m not sure I understand, Hans.”

Professor Seismo: “God doesn’t destroy His Creation but intimately cares for it (Isaiah 40:26). Look at all those stars, Heidi, they’re beautiful because He is beautiful. And they’re



Large Magellanic Cloud

¹ Professor & Mrs. Seismo (pronounced SIZE - mo) are fictitious characters.

the best revelations in nature of Christ's meekness I know. Maybe that's why King David mentioned the heavens in so many of his Psalms. Some time ago, a very insightful scientist by the name of Albert Einstein discovered that all matter in the universe has the potential to be transformed into raw energy. Sweetheart, you've heard of $E = mc^2$, haven't you?"

Mrs. Seismo: "Yes, I have."

Professor Seismo: "Well, that's exactly what's going on in those stars right now. The equation simply states that when our Lord Jesus created the universe, He made energy and matter interchangeable—under certain conditions."

Mrs. Seismo: "Do you mean that my hiking boots can be converted into pure energy?"

Professor Seismo: "Theoretically, yes. All things can. Why, Heidi, you and I have enough stored energy to light up all the buildings in Australia for many years!"

Mrs. Seismo: "Are you making fun of the three pounds I gained this past winter?"

Being an "absent-minded professor," Seismo does not catch his wife's playful kidding.

Professor Seismo: "No, not exactly. The energy inside living things comes from a star. Sunlight is first stored in the green plants Christ made. Photosynthesis captures the energy of the Sun—our local star—and turns it into sugar, which animals can then use."

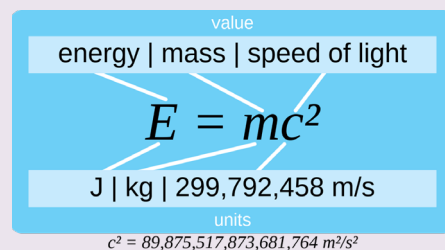
Mrs. Seismo is now deep in thought.

Mrs. Seismo: "It's so hard to understand all this. I just don't see where the energy came from, I mean, originally."

Professor Seismo: "Normally, the energy stored in living things, like trees, can be released through burning. But the energy hidden in stars is released by *fusion*. Fusion occurs when God fuses atoms of one kind to form *a different type of atom*. After a lot of research and hard work, scientists have learned how to do this as well.² The Almighty does it with ease (Jeremiah 32:17)!

2 This is the principle behind a thermonuclear device or hydrogen bomb.

FOR THE EXTRA CURIOUS



This famous equation was proposed by Albert Einstein in 1905. The symbol E represents *energy*, m is *mass* or the amount of "stuff" something possesses, and c equals the *velocity of light* or 186,000 miles per second. Almost everything in the universe has mass and so theoretically can be transformed into energy. Light is the exception. Particles of light, called photons, possess no mass at rest and are considered "pure energy."

"Einstein explained it this way: Think of the energy in your hiking boots like a fabulously rich man who all his life spent very little of his money and gave none away. Naturally, it would be impossible for us to determine exactly how much money he had. As long as the energy in your boots remains hidden, we may never know how much is there. But believe me Heidi, it's a lot!"

Mrs. Seismo: "Oh Hans, I believe you!" *Mrs. Seismo gives her husband an adoring look.*

Professor Seismo: "Stars are gigantic thermonuclear or fusion reactors.³ And they're quite unlike our campfire. You see, Heidi, within a star, atoms are not just rearranged, they're *being transformed* into other kinds of atoms."

Mrs. Seismo: "Thermo . . . nuclear? Transformed?"

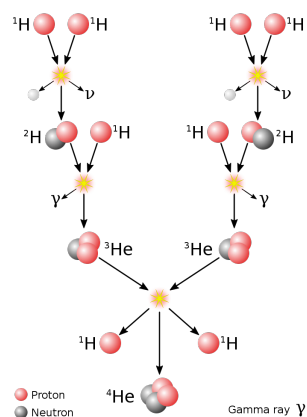
Professor Seismo: "Yes, let me explain it this way: The hydrogen atoms locked up

3 Read about fusion in the **CREATOR Journal** Volume 25 Number 4.

inside those burning logs are released from the wood, they combine with oxygen in the air, and make . . .”

Mrs. Seismo: “Water!”

Professor Seismo: “Good memory, Heidi. Yes, water. But whether the hydrogen atoms are part of the wood or part of the water, they’re still hydrogen atoms—they haven’t been transformed. It’s like the flowers of your garden—no matter where you put them, they’re still flowers. Not so with stars. Most stars contain humongous amounts of hydrogen, which is the fuel that keeps the stars burning bright. In our campfire, God releases hydrogen (H) from the wood and uses it to form water (H₂O); but it remains hydrogen. Unlike our campfire, however, our Lord Jesus literally transforms or changes hydrogen atoms into helium atoms. They are no longer hydrogen atoms.”



¹H stands for hydrogen atoms and ⁴He is a helium atom. Our Lord Jesus takes four hydrogen atoms and through a complex series of reactions, creates a helium atom. Considerable energy is released (represented by the tiny yellow “stars”).

Mrs. Seismo: “Wow. But how does that produce energy?”

Professor Seismo: “Remember Einstein and his famous equation, $E = mc^2$?”

Mrs. Seismo: “Yes.”

Professor Seismo: “In a typical star, God fuses atoms of hydrogen to produce atoms of helium. In so doing, a small amount of the hydrogen’s original mass is changed into energy . . . a tremendous amount of energy. So one helium atom ends up weighing a little less than the four hydrogen atoms from whence it came.”

Mrs. Seismo: “But that’s not what is happening to the hydrogen atoms in our campfire. . . .”

Professor Seismo: “No, remember with simple fire or combustion, energy is released from chemical bonds, but the atoms themselves stay the same.”

Mrs. Seismo: “So our Sun is a gigantic hydrogen bomb?”

Professor Seismo: “Well no, not exactly—more like a super-colossal furnace. The problem is that the hydrogen in a star must first be heated to 27 million degrees Fahrenheit⁴ to start it ‘burning’—this gives us a glimpse at the utter power of our Creator!”

Mrs. Seismo: “I think I accidentally set the oven to that temperature last week while baking cookies. They came out a little dark.” *A coy smile forms on Mrs. Seismo’s face, yet the Professor is totally oblivious to her joke.*

Professor Seismo: “Now sometimes Jesus heats up a star much more than normal.”

Mrs. Seismo: “More than 27 million degrees?!”

Professor Seismo: “Yes, and this then causes it to explode.”

Mrs. Seismo: “Exploding star—that’s called a *supernova*, right?”

Professor Seismo: “Heidi, you’re as smart as you are pretty! In this case, God heats the star to *12 billion degrees Fahrenheit*.⁵ As far as we know, a supernova represents the greatest release of stored energy anywhere in the universe. When a star explodes, it produces light equivalent to hundreds of millions of individual stars. In just one second, a supernova can release as much energy as our Sun might produce in ten billion years! Anything within the neighborhood of an exploding star is utterly destroyed.”

Mrs. Seismo: “That’s very frightening!”

Professor Seismo: “What’s even more incredible, Heidi, is that only a portion of the star’s mass is turned into energy.”

⁴ Fifteen million degrees Celsius

⁵ Almost seven billion degrees Celsius

Mrs. Seismo: “So even as powerful as a supernova is, it could be a lot worse?”

Professor Seismo: “Yes, a lot worse!”

Mrs. Seismo appears visibly shaken.

Mrs. Seismo: “How often do stars explode?”

Professor Seismo: “In most galaxies of 100 to 200 billion stars, like our own, about once every 50 to 100 years—so not that often. When you think about it, our Lord sovereignly keeps pretty tight control on these stellar eruptions.”

Mrs. Seismo: “Have any stars exploded recently, Hans?”

Professor Seismo points up to the heavens.

Professor Seismo: “In 1987, a star in the Large Magellanic Cloud went supernova. See that luminous mist in the sky—it’s a nearby galaxy named after the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan (1480 – 1521).⁶

“In 1054 A.D., a star in our own galaxy exploded, producing a brilliant light in the night sky. It was so bright, the supernova could be seen during the daytime!”

Mrs. Seismo: “Can we still see it?”

Professor Seismo: “In a manner of speaking, yes, but we would need a telescope. If we look at just the right spot in the constellation Taurus, we can detect the remains of the 1054 A.D. supernova. The debris from the explosion, which is now called the *Crab Nebula*, still glows and is quite beautiful.”

Mrs. Seismo: “Like me . . . ?”

Professor Seismo: “Sweetheart, you’re always beautiful to me. That’s because Jesus lives in you!” *Mrs. Seismo blushes.*

Mrs. Seismo: “So what you’re saying, Hans, is that all the matter in the universe—the stars, birds, trees, and people—could explode and release an enormous amount of energy but it doesn’t because, in meekness, Jesus our Creator has a firm hand on everything?”

Professor Seismo: “Exactly! From moment to moment, God keeps the universe under wraps, preventing it from flying apart at

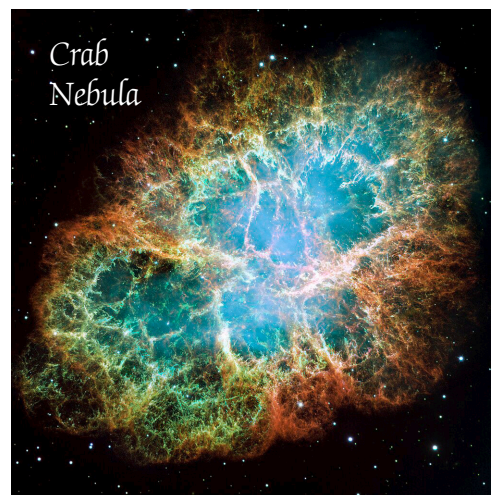
the seams. When the human race fell into sin through our original parents, however, *entropy* was ushered into the universe.”

Mrs. Seismo: “Entropy?”

Professor Seismo: “Entropy is the general trend of the universe toward *death, disorder, and decay.*”

Mrs. Seismo: “So, a supernova is a stark reminder of our sin and its effect on the universe?”

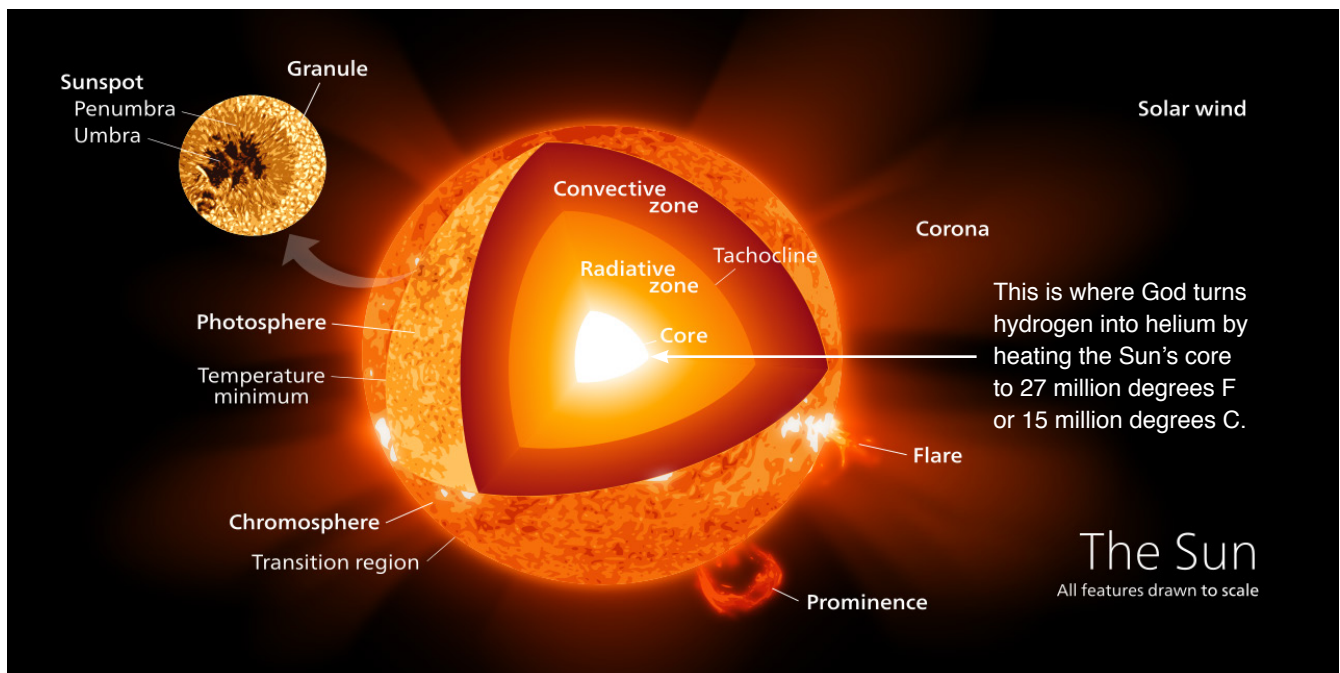
Professor Seismo: “Yes, but it also shows us how much Jesus loves His own. He keeps 99.999% of His stars from exploding. In the course of nature, this kind of violence is relatively rare. It was Puritan Matthew Poole who considered God’s wrath as His ‘strange work’—not His normal way of dealing with



mankind, which is lovingkindness (Psalm 119:64). The truth is, Heidi, if the Lord removed His hand from the universe for even a second, we’d all be destroyed in an instant—but *He doesn’t!* That’s His meekness. He has the power to annihilate everyone and everything, *but He doesn’t*—at least not until all those ordained unto redemption are safely home with Him in Heaven. In the end, Jesus will one day transform all Creation so that it will no longer be subject to entropy or decay.”⁷

⁶ Two smaller galaxies orbit our own Milky Way Galaxy—the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds.

⁷ Romans 8:19-22



Mrs. Seismo: “So would it be correct to say that Jesus supremely showed us His meekness by going to the Cross and not lashing out at people in His pain?”

Professor Seismo: “Yes. He could have asked His Father to send legions of angels to destroy Earth, yet He said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’⁸ That’s power under control; *that’s true meekness.*”

Mrs. Seismo: “And even now, King Jesus could look at the state of the world and destroy us all because of our insurrection against His rule, yet He doesn’t. Obviously, His meekness continues.”

Professor Seismo: “Yes, His meekness is eternal toward those He loves, Heidi. Because God is and always will be ‘a Consuming Fire,’ He will forever hold back destruction from His beloved because they are safe in Christ. This is *His burning love!*”

“Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire?
Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?”

Isaiah 33:14

⁸ Luke 23:34

THE MEEKNESS OF CHRIST

*Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father,
and He will at once send Me more than twelve
legions of angels? Matthew 26:53*

This question to His assailants in the garden magnifies the extent of Christ’s meekness. A Roman legion typically included 6,000 soldiers. Twelve legions of angels would then equal 72,000. In Isaiah 37:36 we read that just one angel struck down 185,000 Assyrians in a single night. All things being equal, 72,000 angels could kill over 13 billion people in short order. This is almost twice the present population of Earth. Yet despite the cruelty shown Him, Jesus willingly chose to suffer rather than use divine power against us!

HIS BURNING WRATH

Our God is a consuming fire.
Hebrews 12:29

When a star goes supernova, up to half its total mass is blown into space. If the Sun exploded in this way, Earth and all its inhabitants would be completely destroyed. If we could observe a supernova from a safe distance, however, it would not appear so destructive, but rather quite beautiful because it reveals the awesome power and glory of Christ our Creator!

The same might be said of God's wrath against sinners. It all depends on where you stand. Those who come before His infinite anger with an unrepentant heart will suffer the terrible pain of eternal destruction—always being destroyed yet never experiencing the relief of total annihilation: He *“will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever”* (Revelation 14:10, 11). Those safe in Christ will enjoy the awesome power and glory of their Lord in His final victory over God's enemies.

Jesus is loving, meek, and patient, but He will soon break forth against the people of Earth (Revelation 19). There is only one Way (John 14:6) to escape His terrible, burning wrath—*repent* of your sins and wickedness, and *believe* in God's Savior, Jesus Christ! Receive into your life the love and protection of His only Son, He who died on the Cross for the ungodly (Romans 5:6). Plead with God the Father to send His Spirit and transform you into one of His believing children—do not delay, *“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts”* (Hebrews 4:7).

Whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.
Proverbs 29:25

Christ Himself will also redeem His Creation from the effects of corruption and decay (entropy). *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God* (Romans 8:19-21).

The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:10-13



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