

UNIT 4: THE EARTH AND CREATION

LESSON 2 – Science and God’s Design



Introduction

- What we want to learn:
 - That everything we can learn and see through scientific discoveries points to God's design.



Introduction

- What should we do with what we learn:
 - Always look for ways that we can understand more about how God has created this world while remembering why He created it.



Scripture Focus

- Job 38
- Psalm 104:5-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:18



Opening Prayer

Lord, I am asking you to give me eyes to see Your Word, a mind that understands Your Word, and a heart that embraces Your Word. Without Your help, I am lost. Thank You for loving me and teaching me through Your Word. Amen.



Anchor Statement

Scientific discoveries about things in the universe show us a glimmer of how powerful and wise God is. Science attempts to tell us the 'how' and God's Word gives us the 'who' and the 'why'.



OVERVIEW



Overview

- Examine scientific discoveries alongside biblical truths
 - Think about how science reveals God's handiwork in the universe
- Purposeful intent of God's design
 - Recognize that we are intricately designed by God for a specific purpose
- Integration of science and faith
 - Understanding God's creation can lead to a deeper appreciation of His wisdom and purpose in our lives.



Context and Details

Job

Author: most likely Job

Time frame: before Moses

Purpose: to underscore how humanity is unable to see life as God does; demonstrates the tension between God and Satan



Context and Details

Psalms

Author: Multiple authors including David, Asaph, the Korahites, Solomon, and others

Time frame: from 1100 – 400 BC

Purpose: to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him



Context and Details

1 Corinthians

Author: the apostle Paul

Time frame: ~53-55 AD

Purpose: to unite a divided church;
He was calling the church to
embrace Christ who was crucified
for all.



THE SETTING



The Setting

- God responds to Job challenging His understanding and questioning His knowledge of the world's workings.
- Underscore the power and majesty of God, highlighting His sovereignty over creation.



THE MAIN POINT



The Main Point

- We have discovered a lot about the natural world; however, some things have not been answered just yet.
- When we use science to look at the natural world, we see God's fingerprints everywhere.
- Creation was made for a purpose.



THE LEAD IN



Goal

To define our understanding of science as the way we get to know how God works in the world around us.



We Will Look at Three Different Photos

These are observable world images





First Photo

What does this photo look like to you?

What do you think this is?

- It's a human cell





Second Photo

What does this photo look like to you?

What do you think this is?

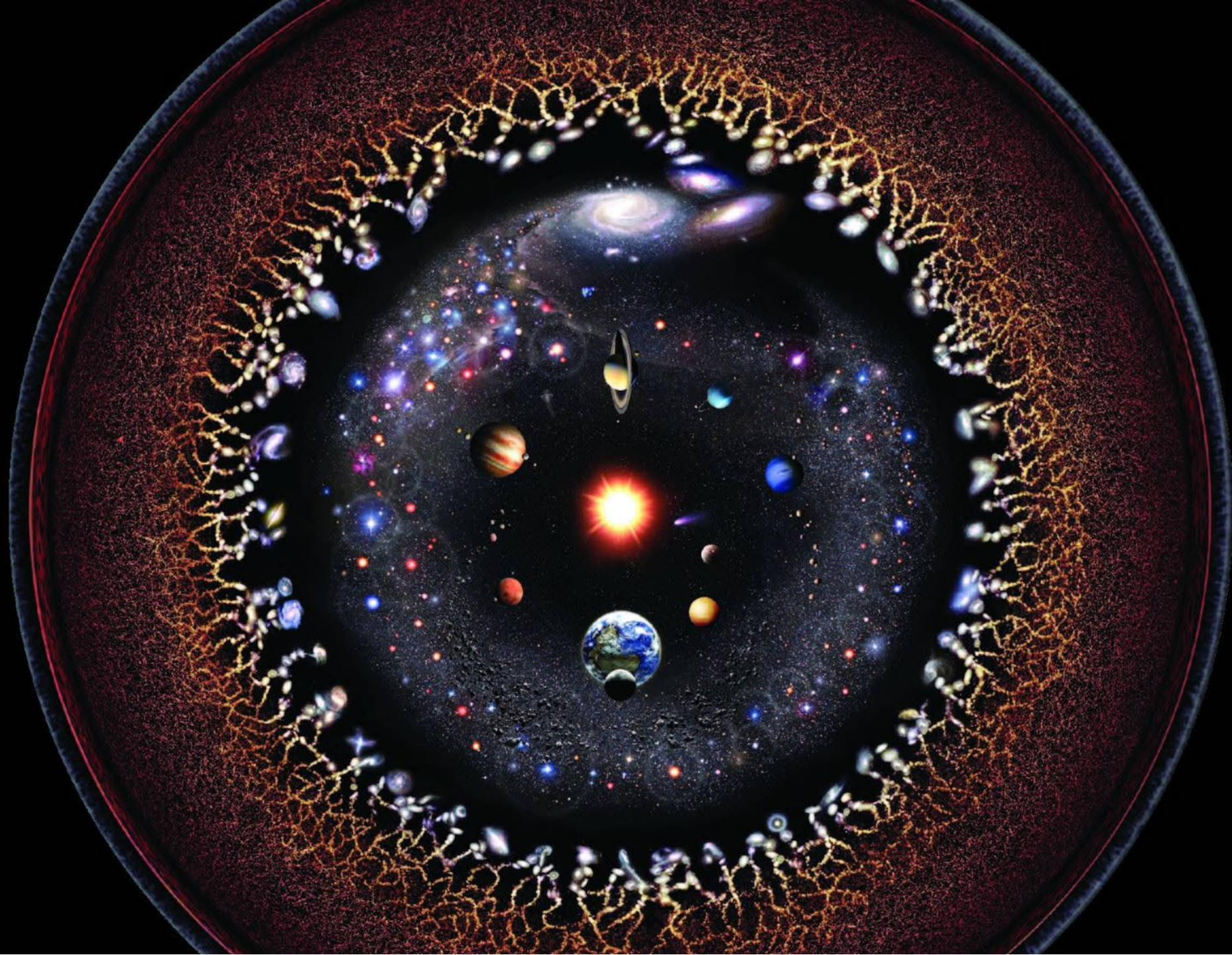
- It's The Milky Way – the galaxy where our earth resides
- We are not 100% sure that this is what the Milky Way looks like.



Third Photo

- We have yet to reach a wall or boundary of any kind.
- It could be so large that it never ends.





Third Photo

What do you notice about this image?

- This image is obviously incomplete.



In Summary

Science is a wonderful tool that we can use to discover things about the world around us and even the universe around us.

If we only rely on science, we will be left wanting.

Discoveries point back to our Creator.



THE MAIN EVENT



Goal

- To look at examples from scientific discoveries that reflect God's design in nature.



Question?

- Is there something about the world or anything in it that makes you curious about how it functions?
- Today, we are looking closer at the universe through some earth science.



Science

- ... is a way for us to know more about how God intended everything to function.
- ... is a way we can discover more about who God is and how he designed the world around us.



Job 38:4-7

- God is asking a rhetorical question which needs no answer.
- Job can speculate as to what he thinks but ultimately God is the one who has a blueprint for the entire earth.



Question?

- Even though none of us were there, as it says in verse 4, how do we come up with answers now?
 - Science can speculate or hypothesize as to its creation but only the Creator ultimately knows the scope of creation.



Be Careful

- Evidence and statistics can be used to say a variety of things.
- Even AI has to be monitored because it draws from the mind of flawed humans.
- Even Satan used the truth of what God said and twisted it to mean something different in Genesis.



Keep in Mind

- Never forget that the chance of survival on any other planet is zero.
- Earth has been formed and set in orbit with an intentionality that we can barely fathom.
- Earth has multiple conditions for all kinds of life.



Psalm 104:5-18

- Does anyone know what an ecosystem is?
 - A geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscapes, work together to form a bubble of life.
- Can you name a few different ecosystems?



God's Intentional Design

- Just as a team is made stronger by a group of people with different talents, our world is made with many different ecosystems that all work together.



Science Lesson

- Interdependence
 - Ecosystems rely on the interdependence of their components (e.g., plants produce oxygen through photosynthesis, which is vital for the survival of animals; in turn animals produce carbon dioxide, which plants need for photosynthesis)



Science Lesson

- Energy Flow

- Energy flows through ecosystems unidirectionally.

- Sun → Producers (i.e., plants) → Consumers (i.e., herbivores, carnivores, omnivores) → Decomposers (i.e., bacteria, fungi) which breaks down organic matter.

- Energy flow sustains life within the ecosystem.



Science Lesson

- **Biodiversity**
 - Ecosystems thrive on having a variety of species present within them.
 - It increases ecosystem stability and resilience (e.g., ability to withstand disturbances such as disease or climate change).



Science Lesson

- **Nutrient Cycling**
 - Ecosystems recycle nutrients through processes such as decomposition and nutrient uptake by plants.
 - When organisms die, their bodies decompose, releasing nutrients back into the soil, which is then taken up by plants to support growth.



Science Lesson

- Regulation of Climate
 - Ecosystems play a crucial role in regulating climate by sequestering carbon dioxide, producing oxygen, and influencing local weather patterns through evapotranspiration and the formation of clouds.



Intelligent Design

- It's truly amazing to understand how the earth functions with all its diverse areas.
- The intricate inter connections and balance within ecosystems is evidence of intelligent design.



Intelligent Design

- When we use science to look deeper into the functions of His created world, we see His design clearer in every aspect.
- Every ecosystem contains some form of life.



Genesis 2:7; 2:21-22

- God created man and woman to have dominion over the earth, the ecosystems, the animals, and vegetation.
- The human body is very complex, especially when you look deeper into it.



1 Corinthians 12:18

- Like the ecosystems, why do you think God made the human body so complex?



Psalm 139:14 - Complexity and Precision

- **Organs and Systems**
 - Heart, lungs, and brain are intricately designed to perform vital functions.
 - The cardiovascular system delivers oxygen and nutrients to tissues.
 - The respiratory system exchanges oxygen and carbon dioxide.
- **DNA and Genetic Information**
 - Unique, one of a kind, blueprint for the development and functioning of your body.



Isaiah 40:29 – Adaptability and Resilience

- Homeostasis
 - Process to maintain internal stability.
 - The body regulates temperature, blood pressure, and pH levels to ensure optimal functioning despite external changes.
- Immune System
 - Defends the body against pathogens and foreign invaders, adapting to new threats through antibody production and immune memory.



Purposeful Design

- **Efficiency and Optimization**
 - Our anatomy and physiology demonstrate efficiency and optimization (e.g., design of the human hand).
- **Interconnectedness**
 - Organs and systems are both interconnected and dependent on each other for optimal functioning.



Intelligent Design

- Science has been able to help us understand how everything functions.
- In everything, there is intelligent design, and we should constantly give God praise for thinking everything through.



Anchor Statement

Scientific discoveries about things in the universe show us a glimmer of how powerful and wise God is. Science attempts to tell us the 'how' and God's Word gives us the 'who' and the 'why'.



THE LAST WORD



Goal

- To better understand how God's design can be discovered by scientific research, but His Word declares the purpose behind all things.



Ephesians 2:10

- What does Paul say we are to God?
- What are we to do as His handiwork?



Index Cards

- What is my purpose in life?



We All Have a Purpose

- God did not intentionally create everything for a purpose and leave you without one.
- Think about a tree in your neighborhood
 - Provides oxygen
 - Provides a home to different types of creatures
 - Provides beauty to the landscape



Genesis 1:27

- While we have similarities with the world around us, we were made for something far greater.
- We were set apart in creation because we were made in the image of God.



Final Thoughts

- Think about the good works mentioned in Ephesians 2:10.
- Write down two or three good works you can do this coming week that displays God to the people in your lives.



