

travels in 100,000 years. Since light travels at 186,000 miles per second, the distance covered by a star's light traveling from one edge of our galaxy to the opposite edge would be 587 quadrillion miles (587 followed by 15 zeros), and it would take that light 100,000 years just to cross our galaxy! When we stop to consider the fact that there are at least 100 billion galaxies in the observed universe, our minds reel and stagger at the very thought of such vastness, and we cannot help recalling the Psalmist's words: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? ... O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

Event #4 (recorded in Genesis 1:2-5) -- God's Mediate Creation of our solar system, comprising a system of planets orbiting the sun and rotating about their own axes, a configuration which not only produced light to shine upon the planet Earth, but also provided for a division between day and night upon the earth.

Here I should like to mention a particular scientific theory of the origin of the solar system: the Fowler-Greenstein-Hoyle theory. Now in order for any scientific theory of the origin of the solar system to be called a good theory, it should be able to explain at least five sets of facts:

- (1) The fact that the sun has most of the mass of the solar system (750:1), whereas the planets have most of the angular momentum (200:1).
- (2) The fact that the orbital planes of the planets are mostly within five degrees of the mean plane of the system.
- (3) The fact that the planets and their satellites (with only a few exceptions) both orbit and rotate in the same direction as the sun rotates.
- (4) The fact that the planetary orbits are nearly circular.
- (5) The fact that the inner planets are made of less volatile material (i.e., which does not vaporize as easily) and are more dense than are the outer planets.

The Fowler-Greenstein-Hoyle theory of the origin of the solar system proposes that the whole solar system was at first a dark, tenuous nebula which, as it revolved, contracted into a slowly spinning disk. When contraction was well advanced, this disk began to glow. The center of the