Most of what we know about Heaven comes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7. Genesis starts our knowledge and Revelation ends it. Heaven pre-existed the creation and continues forever. It is where God lives outside of the Universe. It is where I want to go and be forever. There is another place made for demons, fallen angels, and human volunteers. We call it hell. But God is not there.

Heaven is thought of in many ways:

1. The created heaven - Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. This single heaven is combined with earth, meaning all there is - the Universe. On this timeline, it is a single ball of water, not yet formed into parts, nor does it contain anything but water. It is unformed and void of other contents. From this huge, but finite ball of water all that is the created universe will be made.

2. The finished heavens in Genesis 2:1. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. This includes our atmosphere (where the birds fly), the first heaven, and the rest of space. These are the first and second heavens.

3. The first and second heavens are scheduled for destruction in the future prior to the creation of a new heaven and a new earth in Revelation 21:1.

4. The place the Heavenly Father lives in is outside of the created Genesis 1 & 2, Heaven(s) and earth. It is what the Bible refers to as the “Third Heaven”.

5. Finally, there is the imagined heaven(s), not bearing any Biblical backing or truth. It is an eternal universe or perfect nothingness or a powerful underlying “Force”, aka Star Wars. Whatever it is, it is imagined and wishful thinking. I will speak no more on it.

Genesis 2:4. “These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” Note at the end of the creation week heaven has been divided into sky and space above the earth.

The Sermon on the Mount refers to the kingdom of heaven and Our Father in heaven in a series of profound statements with hope, but notes our time on earth is not the same as the eternal heaven. We are to be salt and light while suffering persecutions for righteousness sake (Chapter 5).

(Continued on page 10)
The One-way Speed of Light and the Age of the Universe
By Kevin Hadsall

Chances are, at some point you have asked, or have been asked, the following question: "If the universe is only 6,000 years old, then how can we see light from stars that are millions and billions of light-years away?" Dr. Jason Lisle, Director of Physical Sciences at the Institute for Creation Research, wrote an intriguing academic article on this topic for Answers Research Journal. This article summarizes Dr. Lisle's research. (see reference at end of article)

Both creation scientists and evolutionary scientists agree that the universe is so massive, that some galaxies are billions of light-years away from planet Earth. The term "light-year" is ultimately a measure of distance, not time. However, it can be easy to believe that if a star or galaxy is X many light-years away from Earth, then it must take X many years for that light to reach Earth. This belief is based on two major assumptions: (1) time is "rigid" and universal, and (2) the speed of light in one direction is equal to the round-trip average speed of light. However, according to Einstein's relativistic physics, both of these assumptions are false!

Time is not rigid and universal. Time is relative to either the position or directional velocity of the observer. The phrase "either/or" is critically important here, because we can conduct calculations based on velocity-based physics or position-based physics, but we cannot mix the two. In either one of these conventions, it is impossible for two perfectly synchronized clocks to stay synchronized if we move just one of them—there would be a change in both directional velocity and position. This has enormous implications for measuring the speed of light in one direction.

We can directly measure the round-trip average speed of light. We use one clock to time how long it takes for light to leave the source, reflect off a mirror, and then return back to the source. This round-trip average speed of light in a vacuum is a constant 186,000 miles per second. Hypothetically, if the mirror is 186,000 miles away, it will take two seconds for the light to reach the mirror and return back.

Now, we might assume that it took the light an equal amount of time to travel in each direction: one second. But what if the light actually took two seconds to travel in one direction, and zero seconds to travel in the other direction? You might think that idea is falsifiable. Actually, it is not.

In order to measure the speed of light in one direction, we would need to set up two, perfectly simultaneous clocks: one at point A and the other at point B. However, we have a conundrum: synchronizing two clocks at a distance. If we synchronize two clocks together at point A and then move one to point B, the clocks are no longer synchronized since travel affects the passage of time. Two clocks can be perfectly synchronized at a distance only if the one-way speed of light is already known, but that creates a logical circle. Moreover, one might first move one clock from point A to point B and then synchronize both clocks by sending a radio signal from one to the other. However, the radio signal will travel at the one-way speed of light, which is the very thing that we are trying to measure! Measuring the one-way speed of light is inherently circular.

Therefore, the one-way speed of light is not an empirical quantity of nature, but the choice of man. There is one constraint: the round-trip average speed of light (in a vacuum) must always equal 186,000 miles per second. How we define the one-way speed of light determines whether or not we are using velocity-
based physics or position-based physics. Let us consider two different conventions in the table below: The Standard Convention (SC) and ASC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time is relative to:</th>
<th>Standard Convention</th>
<th>Anisotropic Synchrony Convention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directional velocity</td>
<td>Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition for the one-way speed of light in a vacuum.</td>
<td>Equal to round-trip speed in all directions (186,000mi/s) relative to a reference frame.</td>
<td>Infinitely fast toward the reference point, but half the round-trip speed away (93,000mi/s); governed by the ( c_{1-way} = \frac{c}{1 - \cos \theta} ), where ( \theta ) defines the angular direction relative to the reference point.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now, let us refer back to the earlier illustration. The first scenario is using SC, while the second scenario is using ASC. In ASC, time is relative to the position of the reference point, which in this case, is point A. If we consider point B to be the reference point, then the times of two seconds and zero seconds for the two directions will be flipped. That might seem like a contradiction, but because of the relative nature of physics, it is not. In ASC, time is relative to the position of the observer, so choosing the opposite point as the reference point will produce opposite results. Likewise, in SC, time is relative to the directional velocity of the observer, so if points A and B were moving in different directions, we would also end up with counter-intuitive results. In the same way that it is not any more “correct” to choose inches over centimeters for measuring length, both SC and ASC are technically correct conventions to measure time and define the one-way speed of light. Therefore, we need to know which convention the Bible is using.

Day is? We read in Genesis 1:5, “God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day” (NKJV). The length of a day is defined by the Earth’s rotation relative to the light source. This implies a position-based physics with Planet Earth as the reference point. According to Genesis 1:14-15, two purposes of the heavens were “…for days and years” and “…to give light on the earth.” Thus, the heavens help us keep track of time, and they give light on Earth. Do the most distant galaxies give light on the Earth? Yes. If not, we would not be able to see them with our telescopes. At the end of Genesis 1:15, we read the phrase, “and it was so,” which implies that the heavenly bodies fulfilled their purposes immediately. If the Bible is using ASC, then light from even the most distant heavenly bodies reached Earth infinitely fast (from the Earth’s point of reference) on Day 4 of Creation Week. This would solve the distant starlight puzzle.

I encourage you to take Dr. Lisle’s research and other cosmological models into consideration when studying the topic of distant starlight. Since the distant starlight question can fuel doubt about God’s Word, we must always be ready to give a defense, with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Reference:

Genesis 1 and Exodus 20:11 make it clear that God created the heavens and the Earth in six, ordinary days. How do we know how long a

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Newsweek Magazine in their January 18, 1988 issue broke the story of:
“Mitochondrial Eve”
By Charles E. Brewster, Ph.D.

They portrayed her as looking like a modern Euro-African American woman. In reality, the original “Mitochondrial Eve,” the Eve of the Genesis account, was probably a middle brown composite of all the skin and hair colors and textures, and facial features we find in the world today.

Secular scientists in 1988 unashamedly admitted that their research showed that the female Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) for everyone alive today was a woman who lived about 300,000 years ago: It was from this single woman that all of us, both male and female, were descended.

I think they originally felt that this difference from the Genesis account (300,000 years vs. 6,000 years) was sufficient to justify their continued scoffing at the idea of Adam and Eve in the Scriptures, so they uncritically accepted this idea.

Mitochondrial DNA

Over the years, as scientists learned more about the interior workings of cells, they had discovered that the cell structure consisted of an outer membrane which enclosed a jelly-like substance called the cytoplasm (it was originally called the “protoplasm”). Embedded in the jelly of the cytoplasm is the cell nucleus (which contains the DNA that determines our inherited traits—our physical characteristics—which are passed down equally from both parents). Also embedded in the jelly of the cytoplasm and surrounding the nucleus are specialized units called organelles, each having specific functions inside the cell. The largest and most important of these are the endoplasmic reticulum, the golgi bodies and the mitochondria (see illustrations).

The mitochondria are the power source of the cell. The food we eat is converted into sugars which are then transported through our bloodstream to the cells. The mitochondria transform these sugars into electricity which then powers the cell itself.

The interior of the cilia covered cell pictured at the left is typical of all eukaryotic cells (that is, cells that have a nucleus). Consider the illustrations of the human egg cells on the next page which shows a scanning electron photomicrograph of a human egg cell. Its cross section would look identical to the illustration on this page. Next to the egg is a photomicrograph of a male sperm as it begins to enter the female egg. The sperm is tiny in comparison to the egg. Its tiny head of the sperm is about $\frac{1}{30}$th the diameter of the human egg yet it contains half the DNA material required to create a human being.

A fertile young woman usually releases one egg per month from one of her two ovaries. Unless the egg is fertilized within the next 24 hours, it dies. At its center (the nucleus), the egg contains half the instructions (genetic information) needed to make a new person. It was from this single woman that all of us, both male and female, were descended.
When the first sperm successfully penetrates the cell wall of the egg, within microseconds the cell wall “hardens” to lock out any other sperm.

Both the egg and the sperm are called *haploid* cells (having only a single set of chromosomes). Once inside the egg, the sperm changes shape, and combines with the nucleus to form a fully functioning *diploid* cell (having a double set of chromosomes). The father’s sperm contains DNA which provides half the genetic coding to create a person, and the nucleus of the mother’s egg provides the DNA for the other half. The egg always carries the female X chromosome whereas the sperm can carry either a male Y chromosome or a female X chromosome. So the DNA in the nucleus comes half from the father and half from the mother.

But it is **the egg alone** which provides the mitochondria, so all the DNA in the mitochondria comes only from the mother. Before the cell divides, it creates an exact duplicate of all its parts—then it divides. (These are the “stem cells” you hear so much about.) These early cells have all the information necessary to create any part of your body. Later, after many, many divisions, the cells differentiate to form specific organs. And even though the cells differentiate, they still keep their structure of membrane, nucleus, and organelles. And except for a small portion of DNA in the sperm’s tail which occasionally breaks off into the cytoplasm (accounting for about one part in 40,000), all the DNA in the mitochondria comes only from the mother.

So the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) in your cells is identical to your mother’s mtDNA. Her mtDNA is identical to her mother’s mtDNA (your **maternal** grandmother). But theoretically, your mtDNA should not be identical to your father’s mtDNA nor to his mother’s mtDNA (your **paternal** grandmother) since the father does not pass any mtDNA to his offspring. The secular scientists were astounded to find that everyone’s mtDNA was the same. This was true the world over. Except for some mutations (genetic damage), everyone in the world seemed to have identical mtDNA. This would mean that we all descended from the same mother.

When they looked at how often these mutations occur, they originally thought all the mutations could have occurred in about 200,000 years. This meant that we have all descended from one woman and she lived about 200,000 years ago! After more study, they found that the mutation rate was higher than they originally believed—so Mitochondrial Eve actually lived just 140,000 years ago. Later studies now show that the mutation rate was much higher and Mother Eve may have lived only about 6,000 years ago. My, my, maybe God was right after all when He gave Genesis to Moses!

Footnotes:
2: Source unknown
4: [http://images.wellcome.ac.uk/indexplus/result.html?_IXFIRST=1&_IXACTION_=query&%24+with+image_sort=&%3Did_ref=B0002101&_IXSPFX_=templates%2Ft&_IXFPFX_=templates%2Ft](http://images.wellcome.ac.uk/indexplus/result.html?_IXFIRST=1&_IXACTION_=query&%24+with+image_sort=&%3Did_ref=B0002101&_IXSPFX_=templates%2Ft&_IXFPFX_=templates%2Ft)
A Visit to the Ark Encounter
by Mark Jurkovich

My wife and I had the opportunity to visit the Ark Encounter this fall. Like others who saw it before me, I was duly impressed, not so much by the size of the vessel or the excellent quality of workmanship, but by the well-done and thorough biblical apologetics that is presented.

You enter the Ark from underneath. (Sorry, you do not get to enter through the door the animals came in, but the ramp is there just in case.) As you enter the lower level of the Ark, you are greeted by a labyrinth of small animal cages and storage jars. You cannot see the animals, but it sounds like they are in there. After exiting the labyrinth, you see a lifelike depiction of Noah and his family in prayer at the start of the flood. After that begins comprehensive descriptions on the feasibility of the ark, which in the process, answers all the major objections commonly leveled against the global flood and the ark of the Bible.

In describing what animals Noah did and did not bring on the Ark, you are introduced to the concept of animal kinds, and what kinds God told Noah to bring. For example, Noah did not have to bring a polar bear and keep him cool, but rather brought the polar bear’s ancestral bear kind on board. Noah did bring various now-extinct animal kinds, including dinosaurs. Many professionally created lifelike animals are scattered in pens throughout decks one and two, illustrating examples of the many animal kinds Noah brought.

Before going up to deck two, there is a cutaway scale model of the Ark, showing in great detail how it may have looked on the inside with all the animal cages and pens, food and water storage, and systems for feeding the animals and removing their waste.

The first exhibit on deck two is called the Pre-Flood World. I thought this might speculate on the climate and plant and animal life before the flood. Instead, it described the state of mankind before the flood. Starting with the “very good” state of initial creation, it continued with man’s rebellion and descent into “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Gen 6:5)

The second level continues with more excellent examples of animal kinds in pens. And if you are observant, you will notice one of Noah’s sons refilling the animal’s water jars from above. On this level, you also get further descriptions of animal kinds with examples from dog, cat and great ape kinds, as well as displays showing how the evidence fits the Biblical model, and not the evolutionary model.

Many questions are answered in the next section describing how eight people could have truly taken care of all those animals on the ark. The descriptions even break it down by animal size and animals with special dietary needs. This section also describes how they could have taken care of ventilation, light, and animal waste.

Next came descriptions on the likelihood that Noah’s family set aside places onboard for woodworking, metallurgy, and preservation of other knowledge. This was followed by a room with Noah’s Ark toys and dozens of children’s’ books with ark depictions. The trouble is, as they point out, these depictions are all wrong.

(Continued on page 7)
What is worse, they give our children the wrong impression that the flood of Noah was just a fairy tale, not to be believed when they get older.

Finally, we come to the door that Noah and all the animals would have entered through (although I think the real door on the ark would have been a lot heftier). The Gospel is brought in at this point (as well as other places throughout the Ark Encounter). Just as Noah and his family had to enter the door to be saved, Jesus is the door by which we all must pass through to be eternally saved (John 10:9).

If you are fortunate, before going up to the third level, you may get to see some live animals. We got to see some llamas here just before they took them out for the day.

On the third level, there is a large section speculating on what the living quarters might have entailed for the family. While of necessity some artistic license was taken, they took great care that nothing contradicted scripture. And where something came directly from scripture, the passage is referenced.

After the living quarters, there is an open area where a short video is shown. Although it is a fictional interview of Noah by the newspaper of his day, it is cleverly used to bring out more facts from the Genesis account and of the grieving Noah likely went through of the pending judgement.

The last major section regarding the Genesis flood describes what happened outside the ark. Here they give a good introduction to flood geology, providing several of the powerful evidences that fit the flood account. In the process, the uniformitarian geology concept is shown to be sorely lacking.

Three more sections cover two major post flood events and the evidence for them, namely the ice age (only one, not many), the tower of Babel, plus a section on flood legends from around the world.

The flood legends section is the last one directly related to Noah’s flood, but there are two important sections left. First is the Museum of the Bible, a wonderful section with copies of the Bible, both ancient and modern. It also describes some missionaries such as Hudson Taylor and other modern translation pioneers. The very last section is simply a large painting of Jesus on the cross, with panels on the side describing certain people in the painting including the mocking thief, the centurion, the repentant thief, and of course of Jesus and his sacrifice. As a fitting conclusion to the Ark Encounter, the last panel challenges you to consider your own heart and your need for Jesus.

Overall the Ark Encounter is well worth the trip down to Kentucky. This is especially true if you have never been exposed to all the scientific evidence that shows a global flood as described in the Bible, best describes the geology of our earth, and not evolution/uniformitarianism.
ARKY’s Calendar of Events  
(as of 10/1/16)  
See more details and complete list at 
http://www.arky.org/current/index.htm

*Jan 9, 7:00 pm to 8:35 pm. DVD, Building of the Ark Encounter at ARKY’s House, open @6:30pm. See the vision of this full sized, all wood ark come together, dream by beam. The skills and techniques of the Amish craftsmen primarily responsible for construction of the timber frame structure. Fascinating facts that include how the three million board feet of wood used could be laid out from Kentucky to Philadelphia, over 600 miles! To give you an idea of how large this structure is, it is permitted to hold 10,000 people. Discover the construction details of the largest timber framed building in the world: 510 feet long; 85 feet wide; 51 feet high based on the Bible’s dimensions and using the Hebrew long cubit of 20.4 inches.

*Feb 13, 7:00 pm to 8:35 pm. DVDs: Noah Interview & Building the Exhibits of Ark Encounter at ARKY’s House, open @6:30pm.  
Noah:  
This is a fun look at the scoffing and questions Noah surely faced. While he finishes building the Ark, Noah and his wife are visited by a "local news team" interested in reporting on his unusual building project. Noah calmly answers each snickering question and continually refers back to God’s command that he build the Ark. In the midst of their scoffing, Noah shares that repentance is the only way to be saved from the impending floodwaters. This humor filled drama is also an excellent reminder for us today that repenting of our sin and trusting in Jesus Christ is the only way that we can be saved. (21 min)  
Building Exhibits:  
From the process of designing the amazing animal "kind" figures to informative interviews with the designers, this reveals how many of the exhibits were produced and how God brought the team of committed believer artisans together! (60 min)

*Mar 13, 7:00 pm to 8:35 pm. Defending Noah’s Ark with Kevin Hadsall (Live presentation) at ARKY’s House, open @6:30pm. This presentation provides an in-depth analysis supporting the feasibility of God's saving work via Noah’s Ark  
Illustrates the true size of the Ark versus common misconceptions  
- Analyzes the seaworthiness of the Ark  
- Describes how many animals were on the Ark and how much space they needed  
- Analyzes manpower requirements in order to care for the animals  
- Briefly discusses post-flood recovery

Answers questions such as,  
- What about food and water for the animals?  
- How could 8 people take care of thousands of animals?  
- Were dinosaurs aboard the Ark? If so, weren’t they too big to fit?  
- What about animals with climatic preferences such as polar bears and penguins?  
- How did freshwater fish and amphibians survive a global, oceanic flood?

And check out:  
(CRSEF) in the Cincinnati Ohio area at http://www.worldbydesign.org/events/events.asp. CRSEF presentations are given at a public library or a local church on the Third Thursday of each month. Locations may vary, but will be listed with the events. All their presentations are planned to run from 7:00-7:45 PM followed by a 15 minute, or longer, Q&A time. Some presentations have technical content, but they try to supply descriptive information to appeal to ages 12 and above!

Note Asterisk (*) Indicates regular ARK meeting at ARKY’s House, 2002 S Smithville Rd, Dayton, OH. One mile South of US 35, just past Wayne Ave. Park on side. Ph: (937) 256-ARKY.

The ARK monthly meeting is every 2nd Monday of the month. The ARK bookstore is open 30 minutes before and after the meeting.

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- Misc: $9.63
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- Reimbursed: $13.88
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- Taxable Sales: $8,955.45
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- Telephone: $815.90
- Supplies: $398.33
- Insurance: $1,944.67
- Professional Fees: $228.40
- Misc.: $295.11
- Utilities: $1,895.74
- Maintenance: $99.00
- Total: $19,000.90
- Balance 11/30/16: $6,079.79

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In chapter 6 we should note our rewards come from the Father in heaven because of our secret obedience and open forgiveness of others. It also tells us in the Lord’s Prayer of our dependence on the Father in so many ways. Then in Chapter 7 is the highlight of gift giving, why we can depend on good from the Father. When we are loved and ask for a good thing, the Father will not give us an evil thing. Our Heavenly Father is waiting to give us His good gifts forever. Be wise.

Revelation 21:1 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.” (NKJV)