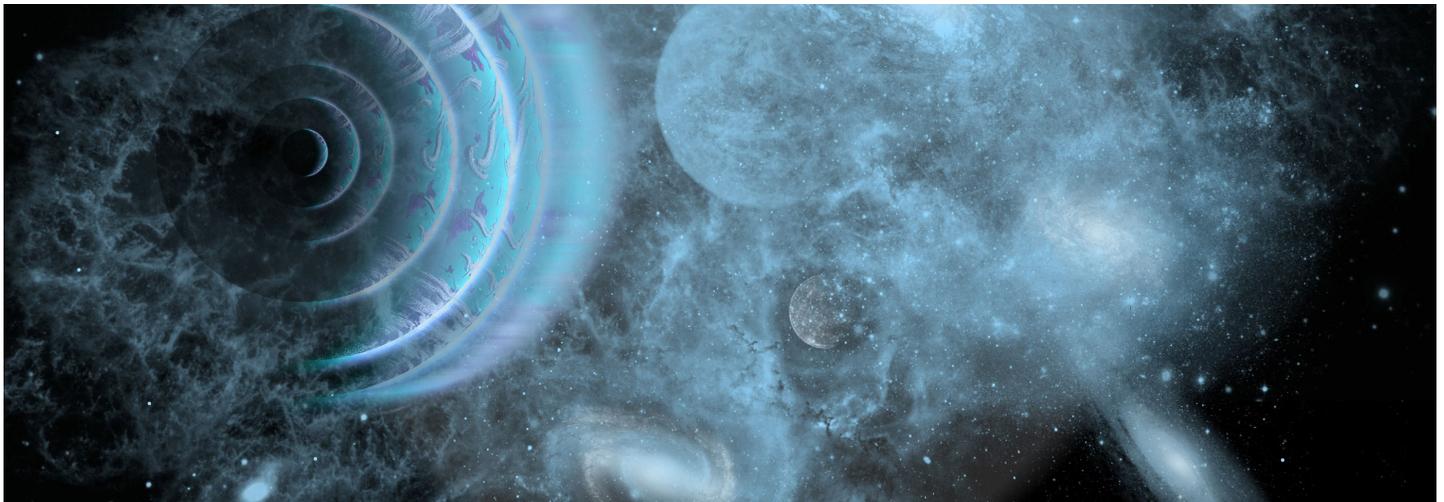




"2023: New Year, More of the Same ... Or What?"



If you've ever taken the time to listen to the gaggle of biologists, astrophysicists, or naturalists who are making observations concerning the natural world (planet earth and beyond), then you'll be aware that these groups talk in incredibly large numbers regarding the ages of everything in existence. They tell us that the history of the universe goes back so far, that we'll never be able to see the beginning. Their cousins tell us that our sun has an expiration date (some 5 billion years in the future), and that one day the lights will literally just blink out.

Like it or not, we share the planet with these kinds of minds. Most Christians (though certainly not all) don't subscribe to Big Bang Theory or Evolution Theory—for all kinds of reasons. For the sake of space let's not rehash why these Theories don't add up for us. Instead, let's do this:

Consider the big numbers touted regarding our history and our future, and then do some serious reductions. Much of the scientific math adds up, but not the timing. Obviously the universe had a beginning, and clearly it didn't come from nothing and nowhere. But from a Godly

perspective, we are not privvy to the mysterious ways God gets things done. The Bible declares that God speaks and something just "IS" ... it exists where a moment before it didn't.

By the same token, just as quickly as the lights came on, they will one day go out. The Bible also declares that God will make a "swift" end. We aren't going to have to wait those 5 billion years for things to wrap up. In the Book of Revelation God speaks of a moment where He makes "all things new." "All" "things" "new." To you or me "all" can be a pretty broad concept. But consider what "all" might mean to God. He created it "all" in the beginning; we can be pretty sure He knows how to do a serious make-over.

"All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation," shout those voices. "Where is the promise of His coming?" Yes, to the eye of appearance it all looks the same. Our sun drifts on through our galaxy; the earth continues in its orbit around the sun, and the moon forges a non-stop path across our sky. No changes, just bigger numbers on the calendar.

So here we are, another orbit around our closest star. Of course, where we start and finish our reckoning of earth's

orbit around the sun is totally man-made. The timing of solstice to solstice appears to matter little to Heaven, and Heaven is not waiting for a specific "time" to burst upon our sky. The day and the hour is "known" by God, but He is not wringing His hands hoping all things will work out at the right time ... or on time. Conditions are seldom dependent upon time. Conditions are dependent upon conditions.

Our part in all of this is to stay close to the Father, obtain good seed from Him and scatter that seed as far and as wide as we are able. The seed is not ours; the germination is not brought forth by our hand, and the growth and fruit is not a result of human effort—it is Divine.

Here at IBE/Mission World we recognize the responsibility of dispensing good seed. For many, many years we have been engaged in the faithful scattering of this seed across the globe. Though we would enjoy a clear heads-up, none of us knows what the future holds. But this we do know: with your continued support, we will do what we can, while we can, until we can't.

Ignore the nay-sayers—the end of all things draweth nigh.

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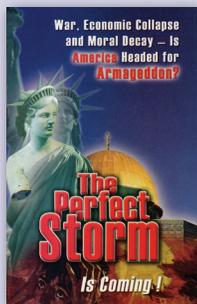
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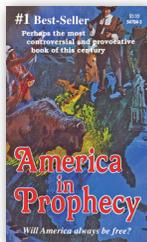
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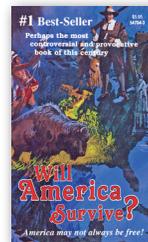


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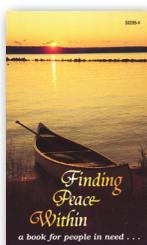
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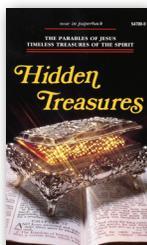
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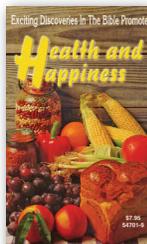


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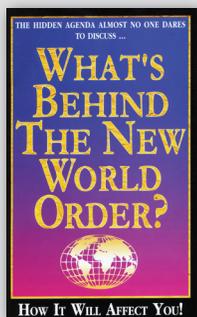
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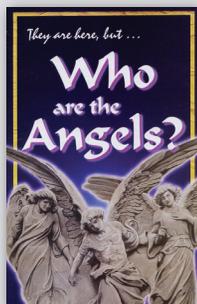
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