

From Tyndale to Galileo: Grace and Space

Readers of the atheist literature may come away believing that science has made God unnecessary. This lecture offers a different perspective. Although science can illuminate the glories of the creation, this talk will argue that it is beyond the domain of science to infer that God does not exist. God exists outside of space and time. Science does not have the weapons to expunge God's Spirit or the revelation of His spiritual kingdom. At the heart of God's Kingdom is grace, as expounded by the great Reformer William Tyndale. Space belongs to the Book of Nature, as elucidated by Galileo Galilei. Grace belongs to the Book of Scripture. There is no grace in space.

David Block co-wrote a forthcoming book on this subject (*Grace and Space: Two Astronomers Reflect upon the Universe of Space and the God of Grace*) with Kenneth Freeman, which Giovanni Fazio, Senior Physicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, has called "a must read if one is to gain a proper perspective on life and why we exist in the Universe!"

David L. Block was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of London at the age of 19. His first research paper, on relativistic astrophysics, was published in London, by the Royal Astronomical Society, at age 20. Professor Block has been a visiting research scientist at the Australian National University, the European Southern Observatory in Germany, Harvard University, the California Institute of Technology, and the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii. One of his accolades is the coveted National Science & Technology Forum - BHP Billiton Award, recognizing him as one of South Africa's foremost communicators in science. An international conference was recently hosted to honor his 60th birthday. He is one of a handful of scientists whose research has twice been featured on the cover of the world's most prestigious scientific journal "NATURE". He has authored several books, including *Starwatch* (Lion Publishing, UK), *Sternenwelt* (Brockhaus Verlag, Germany), *Universums Skapelse* (Bokförlaget Libris, Sweden) and more recently, *Shrouds of the Night* (Springer, NY. Co-author: K.C. Freeman, FRS). David had the pleasure of accompanying Stephen Hawking to meet former President Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg. He is married to Elizabeth, a lecturer in geography at the University of Johannesburg, and they have three sons.

- I. There is no grace in space

- II. The New Astronomy: Advice from St. Augustine

- III. Do the trees move the wind?

- IV. The blind leading the blind

V. The sociology of science

VI. The theft of glory

VII. Revulsion to purpose

Suggested Readings:

Block, David & Freeman, Ken. *Shrouds of the Night* (Springer, New York, 2008)

Galileo, Galilei *Sidereus Nuncius or The Sidereal Messenger* (translated by Albert van Helden, University of Chicago Press, 1989)

Teems, David. *Tyndale: The Man Who Gave God an English Voice* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

Tyndale, William. *The New Testament – 1526* (British Library, 2000)