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## Jesus and The Moon

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## Jesus and the Moon

Astronomers have been finding planets in distant solar systems, many of them with one or more of their own satellite moons. Earth's moon seems very particularly suited to our needs – unlike all the other arrangements that have so far been discovered in the universe. Our moon is extremely beneficial: taking hits from many large meteorites that would otherwise have disrupted life on earth, orbiting at just the right distance to cause tides which in turn keep the oceans in healthy movement, which in their turn bring about necessary fluctuations in weather. The moon is one of the significant cosmic factors that make our lives possible on earth.

While scientists notice and list the many variables that converge to favor human life here on earth, those who believe in God as Creator see God's care for us demonstrated in the sizes and orbits of the earth and moon. As some cosmologists have noted, the cards of evolution, even at the level of the stars and our solar system, are "stacked" to provide for life here on earth. We who are alive can appreciate and take joy in recognizing the beauty and order of the "blue planet" on which we reside.

Into this world, God has come as a human, in Jesus Christ. Jesus, like the moon, can be taken for granted, or considered merely as a pleasant light in the sky. For those who reflect on the alignment of Jesus and humanity, the world is seen as centered and focused upon love. Our world – all that makes life worth living – depends upon love. Jesus makes this known to us, "taking the hits" of human selfishness and insensitivity so that we might still achieve our true purpose in life. Suffering is not an obstacle to love; Jesus suffered. Choosing power and control as top priorities cuts us off from love; Jesus did not seek to exercise power and control over others.

In Jesus, the motions of our "spiritual weather" are revealed: just as we can sense the difference between a nice day and one that is not, the Spirit of God poured out upon us by the Risen Jesus enables us to distinguish the thoughts and inspirations of God as radically opposed to the pushes and pulls of a spirit that is not of God. All options that are truly good and worthy of us bear some discernible signs that we can recognize, and so also do the negative and selfish impulses and thoughts that come to us.

Jesus is our direct way to transcend the physical restrictions of the earth, the moon, the sun, our solar system and the entire universe. All

are subject to entropy, total loss of energy, and death. The arrangement of moon, earth, tides, sunlight, and seasons is, for all that it offers in favor of human life, winding down to a conclusion. We are passengers on a vehicle – earth - that has a limited fuel supply. But we, the passengers, through our trust relationship with God that is most clearly found in Jesus, have free passage through death to unending life.

Scientists have been intrigued in reflecting on the significance of the moon for the existence of life on earth. Those who wish can consider profitably the effect of Jesus upon this world. God reaches out to us not just at the level of reason and Science, but in the most deeply human part of our affections, our love. Jesus comes to win our hearts by first loving us, and drawing us to love in return. The consequence: we are enabled to pass from the world that dies in entropy to pure and eternal love. Quite a gain! Jesus is far more important for human life on earth than is the moon.