ROCKET Science Science Confirms ™E BIBLE

ROB WEBB



A division of Answers in Genesis

Rocket Science Confirms the Bible

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DEDICATION

To my faithful wife, Abby, and my precious children: Kate, RJ, William, and Alfred—my greatest earthly blessings. And most of all, to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My ultimate hope is that he is exalted and glorified through this work.

Located in the Large Magellanic Cloud, this ethereal-looking region of star formation was taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

FOREWORD

I am delighted to endorse Rob Webb's book, *Rocket Science Confirms the Bible.* As an aerospace engineer with a decade of experience designing components of several NASA spacecraft, "Rocket Rob" certainly is qualified to write this book. But the book is about more than just rocket science—it is an examination of worldviews. Is your worldview based upon man's ideas, or is it based upon the sure foundation of Scripture? To the Christian, there is no separation between the sacred and the secular. A consistent Christian cannot be a believer on Sunday but leave that behind as he enters the workplace on Monday. Therefore, a Christian who happens to be a scientist must examine his assumptions very carefully to ensure that he looks at the world the way God intends.

Christians and non-Christians look at the world very differently. People are curious about the world around us, but why are we curious? The natural world is consistent in how it operates and is knowable, but why is it so ordered? The secular (evolutionary) worldview does not have satisfactory answers to these questions, but as Rocket Rob explains, the Christian worldview does. Our Creator sustains creation moment by moment and he does so in a consistent manner. The scriptural dominion mandate includes space exploration. Furthermore, space exploration provides insight into God's glory as revealed in the heavens. A career in rocket science or other areas of science and engineering can be God-honoring and very fulfilling for a Christian.

In one of the appendices, Rocket Rob applies some of the principles he develops in this book to answer a question that all people today contemplate—are there beings like us who inhabit other planets? We have never observed life elsewhere in the universe, so all answers to this question go beyond science. Many of these answers are mere speculation, and all conclusions that people reach about this question reflect the worldviews of those offering the answers. If life developed naturally on earth (no Creator), then wouldn't it be strange if life were unique to the earth? That would make the earth unique and exceedingly special. But the naturalistic worldview assumes that there is nothing special about the earth. Therefore, most people committed to naturalistic answers only (no God) conclude that there must be many inhabited planets in the universe.

What is the proper Bible-based answer to the question of whether we are alone in the universe? Keep in mind that the Bible does not directly address this question, but neither does it directly answer every inquiry we might have. So how does the Christian approach these sorts of questions? We read the Bible to understand the way that God operates, and we apply the principles we glean to answer these questions. Therefore, to the Christian, the question of life elsewhere in the universe is a theological question, not a scientific one. What do I think? I agree with Rocket Rob, so I'll let you read what he says for yourself.

This is just one question that Rocket Rob deftly answers in this book. It is a delightful read. And it's not just for people in the aerospace industry or contemplating entering that field. *Rocket Science Confirms the Bible* is perhaps more about examining one's worldview than about rocket science. It is for all age groups, but it is most valuable for young people seeking out God's will for their lives.

> Danny Faulkner Astronomer Answers in Genesis

NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket with the Orion spacecraft aboard is seen atop the mobile launcher.

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CHAPTER 1

T-MINUS 10 Ready for Launch?

So are you a Christian aspiring to be a rocket scientist one day? Or maybe you're already in the field and looking to strengthen your faith while working in a secular (anti-God) space industry?¹ Maybe you're a Christian parent raising *future* rocket scientists and want to know how to equip the next generation to stand firm on God's Word. Or maybe you're simply a curious Christian wanting to know what this (cool-looking) book has to offer. If any of these sound like you...then this book is for you!

Or maybe you're *not* a Christian, and you're wondering something like, "How in the world does rocket science relate to Christianity and the Bible?" If so, don't worry—this book is for you too! I only ask that you keep an open mind as you navigate through this book. My hope is that this book challenges you to reconsider your beliefs about God and his Word. And most importantly, I pray that God uses the information in this book to open your eyes to the truth of Christianity and the

¹ In this book, when I refer to the "space industry," I am not only referring to NASA but also to three key sectors: satellites, ground equipment, and the launch vehicle industry. It is important to note that while the space industry as a whole is not completely secular as there are still some Christians, the majority of individuals in the field are not. This observation is based on my general experience.

saving gospel message of Jesus Christ so that *you* can receive everlasting life.²

So unless you've been living under a rock, I'm sure you're aware that rocket science and space exploration are becoming increasingly popular in our culture. It all began with Sputnik and advanced through the Apollo program and moon landings, followed by the space shuttle, the International Space Station (ISS), and beyond. And of course, the recent rise in popularity coincides with the rapid increase in space technology over the past few decades. Private companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, and others are continuing to break the boundaries of "what's possible" in our pursuit of exploring the heavens.

No doubt, there have been many books written on rocket science, but just about all of them are from a *secular* perspective. How many are written from a *biblical* viewpoint? As of

One of the leading pioneers of rocket technology, Wernher von Braun, was a creationist!

now, there are likely none that address the field of rocket science through a truly biblical worldview (i.e., through the "lens"

of Scripture). And yet one of the leading pioneers of rocket technology, Wernher von Braun, was a creationist! But I pray this trend changes soon, starting with this book! Its purpose is to give you a starting point for understanding rocket science from a biblical perspective and to help you defend your faith in a secular space industry—standing firmly on the authority of God's Word.

² To learn more about the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ, go here: AnswersInGenesis.org/good-news.

First, we'll begin with my personal testimony and experiences as a Christian working in the modern space industry. Then we'll briefly explore the history of rocket science and highlight how *Christians* played a key role in its development in the twentieth century. We'll also examine the biblical view of space exploration and discuss why Christians need not be afraid of it but instead should *embrace* the exciting opportunities to explore God's creation in the heavens.

Next, we'll shift gears to discuss how the Bible *alone* provides the foundation for rocket science (as it does for all fields of science). I'll also share a "guide" that helped me survive (and thrive!) as a Christian in a secular industry and include a short message for my atheist neighbors. Finally, we'll wrap up with a brief chapter on practical steps to pursuing a career as a rocket scientist.

This book also provides three appendices with extra information.

- Appendix A explores the laws of thermodynamics, essential to rocket science, and how they confirm the Bible.
- Appendix B provides a biblical explanation as to why space aliens (extraterrestrials) do not exist and how a belief in aliens undermines biblical authority.
- Appendix C demonstrates how GPS (Global Positioning System) technology refutes the "flat-earth" myth and explains why this deceptive movement should be avoided.

Ready for launch? We are taking back the field of rocket science—for the glory of God!