

## The Starbreather

Psalm 19:1-4

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Recall the “Concepts” chart.
2. **3** The title of today’s lesson is “The Starbreather.” That may sound a bit unusual, but in a few minutes I believe it will become crystal clear why I chose that title.
3. **4** The created universe exists for more than just to provide us with a place (Earth) to live!

**Psalm 19:1-4:** “*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun.*” (NIV)

**5 Rom. 1:20:** “*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*” (NIV)

4. **6** It’s as if there were huge neon signs in the heavens proclaiming: “There is a God!”
  - A. The late Carl Sagan (cosmologist, host of the original PBS program *Cosmos*) famously said, “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.”
  - B. The Bible claims there is a God and He possesses “*eternal power and deity*” (Rom. 1:20). This extraordinary claim is backed up by the extraordinary evidence He has given us: the Universe!
5. **7** The first thing I want to do is establish man’s place in the universe: Please bear with me and pay close attention; I’m going to throw a lot of numbers at you. I’m asking you to use your imagination to visualize as we go along.
  - A. **\*\*** Size of the Earth: the Earth is a big place!
    - (1) Surface area = ~200 million square miles (196,939,900 square miles).
    - (2) Indiana covers 36,418 square miles or only about 1/5408<sup>th</sup> of the Earth.
    - (3) Monroe County has an area of 395 square miles; only about 1/90<sup>th</sup> of Indiana.
    - (4) **8** Expressed in terms of time: if 1 square mile = 1 second:
      - (a) Earth at ~200 million square miles = ~6 years and 3 months.
      - (b) Indiana at ~37,000 square miles = 10 hours and 7 minutes.
      - (c) Monroe County at ~400 square miles = 6 minutes and 51 seconds (Vigo = 403; 1/90<sup>th</sup>, 6 min, 43 sec).
  - B. **9** Need a better perspective? Golf ball example:
    - (1) The *Titleist Pro VI* is 1.68 inches in diameter and has 332 dimples.
    - (2) If the Earth were a *Titleist Pro VI* golf ball, Indiana could be represented by approximately 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a dimple (i.e., the red dot). **\*\***
    - (3) Monroe County would represent 1/92<sup>nd</sup> of the red dot!
    - (4) **\*\* Now, find yourself on the golf ball!**
    - (5) I want you to hold on to that thought: You and I are just small specks on 1/92<sup>nd</sup> of a little red dot!

## II. DISCUSSION:

### I. **10** What is meant by: The Starbreather?

- A. God created every star we see, as well as the stars we don't see! **\*\*Gen. 1:14-16\*\***
- B. He created them by the breath of His mouth! **\*\*Psa. 33:6-9\*\*** (**Psa. 19:1**: "The heavens declare the glory of God"; **glory** comes from the word for heavy! "That's heavy man!")
- C. Jesus is the active person of the Godhead in creation: **\*\*Jn. 1:1-3; \*\*Col. 1:16-17\*\***.
- D. And, He created the universe from "nothing"! **\*\*Heb. 11:3** Wrap your head around that!
- E. So, now there are two thoughts for you to hold on to:
  - (1) You and I are invisible specks on a little red dot! AND
  - (2) "The heavens declare the glory of God," for many reasons, not the least of which is that He created them from nothing by simply speaking them into existence!
- F. In a moment we will consider the great irony in these two facts and the profound ramifications they should have in our lives.

### 2. **11** Starbreather: Perspective: Let's look at what the Starbreather accomplished when He created the universe.

#### A. **\*\* Sun:**

#### (1) Relationship to the Earth: by comparison the Sun is humongous!

- (a) Our planet is quite close to the Sun (3<sup>rd</sup> of 8 planets).
- (b) The largest planet is Jupiter; 5<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun; Jupiter is ~484 million miles from the Sun (over 5 times further from the Sun than the Earth, 93 million miles).
- (c) Perspective of how far the Earth is from the Sun:
  - ☛ If you could drive your car to the Sun at 70 miles per hour it would take you 151 years, 7 months, 28 days, 1 hour and 26 minutes! Not including pit stops!
  - ☛ Jupiter to the Sun ~789 years! If you were arriving at Jupiter today you would have had to have started the journey about twelve years before (1215 AD) King John of England signed the *Magna Carta*.

#### (2) **12** Size of the Sun:

- (a) Radius = nearly a half billion miles (432,288 miles; ~110 X radius of the Earth).
- (b) Accounts for 99.86% of the mass of our solar system.
- (c) Sun burns 683 million tons of hydrogen per second! ~17 million fully loaded semi's per second!
- (d) This causes the Sun's diameter to shrink 5 feet per hour!
- (e) Surface area = 6,087,700,000,000 square miles: That's over 6 trillion square miles! 30,911 times that of the Earth! Hot! Surface >10,000 °F, center >27 million °F!
  - ☛ Remember our time example: if 1 square mile = 1 second?
    - ✓ Earth: ~6 years and 3 months,
    - ✓ Sun: 193,040 years!

- (f) **13** Volume = 338,756,815,120,000,000 cubic miles (~3.4 quadrillion); **\*\*1.3 million x Earth.**

B. *The Sun is just an average star:*

- (1) **14** *VY Canis Majoris* (i.e., “the great dog”): Until 2012 the “dog star” was advertised as the largest “known” star; located ~4,900 light years from earth.
  - (a) Radius: ~614 million miles! (613,848,960 miles; 1,420 times Sun’s radius). If it were at the center of our solar system it would reach between Jupiter and Saturn!
  - (b) Circumference is so vast:
    - (i) A space ship traveling at the speed of light would take over 8 hours to fly around *VY Canis Majoris*!
    - (ii) It would take a jet airliner ~1,100 years to fly around *VY Canis Majoris*!
- (2) **15** Volume: ~2.7 octillion cubic miles!
  - (a) Volume = ~70,000,000,000,000,000; i.e., 70 quadrillion earths!  $70 \times 10^{15}$ ! ~9.3 billion Suns! **\*\***Rose Bowl (*VY Canis Majoris*), **\*\***lemon (*Sun*), **\*\***small pebble (*Earth*).
  - (c) **\*\*** Time: If 1 second = 1 cubic mile; Earth is 8,241 years; Sun is 107.5 million years; *VY Canis Majoris* is nearly 86 quintillion years!  $10^{18}$

C. **\*\*** *UY Scuti*: In 2012 *UY Scuti* was officially named the largest known star located ~9,500 light years from earth; radius: >1,708 times Sun’s radius! 20% larger than *VY Canis Majoris*! **So, now I want you to hold onto three thoughts:**

- (1) You and I are invisible specks on a little red dot!
- (2) “*The heavens declare the glory of God,*” for many reasons, not the least of which is that He created them “*by the breath of His mouth*” from nothing!
- (3) **\*\*** In comparison to the earth, sun, and stars: “How big am I?”

D. **16** *Size of the universe*: Remember, Jesus created all the stars and other heavenly bodies **Psa. 33:6**: “*by the word of the Lord*” and “*by the breath of His mouth*”; **Heb. 11:3**: “*not made of things which are visible*”!

- (1) The size of the observable universe is so large it is truly unfathomable: both in terms of scale (distances) and scope (number of stars).
- (2) **\*\*** The distances are so vast they must be measured in terms of the speed of light:
  - (a) Speed of light is 186,000 miles per second,
  - (b) ~670 million mph! Or, 16.1 billion miles per day! 5.9 trillion miles per year!
  - (c) Earth to moon (~240,000 miles) in 1.28 seconds.
  - (d) Sun to Earth (93 million miles) in 8 minutes, 20 seconds (recall car driving at 70 miles per hour would take ~152 years to reach the Sun!).
- (3) It is so hard to wrap our minds around that fantastic speed: **17**
  - (a) **\*\***Circumference of the Earth is 24,901 miles; light goes around in only 0.13 sec.
  - (b) World record for 100 meters (Usain Bolt, 2009) is 9.58 sec; in that time light could whiz around the Earth ~72 times!
- (4) **18** Closest star (besides Sun) to Earth is *Proxima Centauri*: How far is *Proxima Centauri* from Earth? 4.24 light years; closest star to Earth other than the Sun.
  - (a) Fastest man-made object is the satellite *Voyager 1* (launched 9/5/1977).

- (b) Speed: 38,610 mph (~11 miles per second); fly-by *Jupiter* on 3/5/1979; fly-by *Saturn* on 11/12/1980; currently >12 billion miles from Earth and entering “deep space.”
- (c) \*\* How long for *Voyager 1* to reach *Proxima Centauri*? \*\* 73,533 years!

(5) **19** Size and scale of observable Universe:

- (a) The observable universe is ~93 billion light years in diameter (46.5 billion light years in any direction;
- (b) \*\* Observable universe contains >100 billion galaxies with each galaxy containing 10 million—trillion stars each!
- (c) According to scientists at the University of Hawaii there are approximately  $7.5 \times 10^{18}$  (7 quintillion, 500 quadrillion; a billion billion) grains of sand on the earth.
- (d) There are more stars in the observable universe than grains of sand on the earth;  $10 \times 10^{21}$  (i.e., a billion, trillion).
- (e) \*\* Recall Genesis 1:16: “Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.” Understatement?!
- (f) \*\* Man can only crudely estimate the number of stars; God knows exactly how many there are! **Psa. 147:4:** “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.”

3. Lessons to be learned: from our fantastic Universe created by “The Starbreather”:

A. **20** Man’s knowledge and power are limited: *Hubble Space Telescope* entered service in 1990.

- (1) It has given man a look at outer space that was not obtainable with even the highest powered earth-based telescopes.
  - (a) \*\* This is what earth-based telescopes saw on a certain patch of sky (size of your thumb held at arm’s length).
  - (b) \*\* Hubble took 342 pictures over 10 consecutive days.
  - (c) Field of view only 2 parts in a million of the whole sky.
  - (d) Looking through a small peephole that’s focused into another small peephole! \*\*
- (2) **21** This is what Hubble saw! Over two-thirds of these points of light are not stars, but entire galaxies! \*\*God knew they were there all along! Psa. 147:4
- (3) *James Webb Space Telescope* is scheduled for launch in October, 2018.
  - (a) Powerful enough to read writing on a soccer ball 340 miles away! MSU~320 miles
  - (b) It can see objects that are 100 times fainter than the *Hubble Space Telescope* can observe.
  - (c) I have little doubt that man will learn much more than from Hubble; and it will probably generate more questions than answers.

B. **22** Man knows much less than he is willing to admit:

- (1) Have you ever watched the “science” shows on TV? e.g., “How the Universe Works” (Discovery channel)
- (2) \*\* These scientists speak as if they had absolutely everything figured out about the Universe. If you question their “theories” you are treated as a total dimwit on par with someone who believes in a “flat earth.”

- (3) I know a little about science; I have a doctoral degree in “science”; I’ve had several articles published in refereed scientific journals; and I’ve spoken at several scientific conferences.
  - (a) When I conducted the research for my doctoral dissertation I used very sophisticated statistical methods to analyze the data (nothing unusual about that!).
  - (b) \*\* In order to make any solid conclusions the statistics had to say there was less than a one percent probability the results were due merely to chance (i.e., the “error term” had to be less than 1%!).
  - (c) If I had written my dissertation without this level of precision I would have flunked miserably; any articles submitted to a scientific journal would have been promptly returned with a huge, red “REJECTED” stamped on them! If I had gotten up to speak at a scientific conference they would have laughed me off the podium!
- (4) **23** Have you ever heard the word hubris? It means “excessive pride or self-confidence; arrogance.” (Dictionary.com)
  - (a) This word so aptly describes the “scientists” that appear on programs like “How the Universe Works.”
  - (b) I’m not saying these folks aren’t smart; no, they are a lot smarter than me.
  - (c) But, they are not nearly as smart as they would like for us to believe.
- (5) Why do I say this?
  - (a) Recall I said my research would never have been accepted if the “error term” was more than one percent.
  - (b) \*\* Do you know these scientists can accurately explain less than 5% of the Universe?
- (6) Composition of the Universe: science tells us that less than 5% of the Universe is made up of “matter.”
  - (a) It’s what we can see and measure: galaxies, stars, planets, comets, meteors, gas clouds, etc.
  - (b) Heavenly bodies are made of “matter”; stuff on the periodic table like hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, iron, nickel, gold, etc.
- (7) So what is the remaining 95%+ of the Universe made of? \*\* As one well-known science writer said, “The short answer is, we have no idea.” (Cathal O’connell, “The dark side of the universe—a primer”)
- (8) **24** So what is going on? Two things: given what scientists currently know about the Universe:
  - (a) They cannot explain why the universe just doesn’t fly apart.
  - (b) They cannot explain why the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate (i.e., rate of expansion keeps getting faster and faster!).
- (9) \*\* So they’ve invented two entities: dark matter and dark energy.
  - (a) I would describe dark matter and dark energy as their “error terms”; their “fudge factors.”
  - (b) Without these “fudge factors” they can’t explain the observed behavior of the universe.
- (10) Scientists theorize:

- ☛ Dark matter is what holds galaxies together; keeps the universe from flying apart (~27%)(**Col. 1:17**: “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”).
  - ☛ Dark energy causes the universe to expand at an accelerating rate (~78%).
- (11) \*\* Dark matter/dark energy; scientific “fudge factors,” make up >95% of the universe! “They serve as scaffolding to keep the “Big Bang” theory from toppling over!”
- (12) My point: don’t be intimidated by godless, naturalistic scientists! They don’t know nearly what they want you to think they know!
- (a) A good deal of what you see on programs like “How the Universe Works” is much closer to science fiction than science.
  - (b) A good deal closer to speculation than truth. No wonder then that:  
**Psa. 2:4**: “He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.”  
**Job 38:2-4**: “Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. 4 ‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.’”
  - (c) I would be the first to admit there are many questions about the universe the Biblical creation account does not explain.; it’s not that the Bible provides an inadequate explanation, it simply does not provide specific, detailed answers to many questions (**Deut. 29:29**: “The secret things belong to the LORD our God...”).
  - (d) However, the theories of modern cosmologists are even more problematic both at an empirical level and philosophical level (e.g., violate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Laws of Thermodynamics and the Law of Cause and Effect).
  - (e) The difference is most creationists admit many aspects of cosmology are unexplainable (and very likely will never be adequately explained), while atheistic scientists won’t make that admission, they constantly engage in wild speculation (calling it science) and belittle those who do not agree with them as being “anti-science.” (**1 Tim. 6:20**: “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”).

C. Testifies to God’s greatness & man’s smallness: **25**

- (1) Surely the size of these heavenly bodies testify to God’s greatness; Jesus made everything “by the breath of His mouth”; from nothing (Heb. 11:3); He spoke into existence:
- (a) VY Canis Majoris: 70 quadrillion Earths; 9.3 billion Suns!
  - (b) Much, much, more! **26** “by the breath of His mouth”; from nothing He created:
    - ☛ >100 billion ( $10^{11}$ ) galaxies in the observable universe (Wikipedia)
    - ☛ Each galaxy: 10 million to 10 trillion stars (known universe): ~total stars in the known universe:
- (**27**) 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 (1 quintillion)  
 and  
 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (1 septillion;  $10^{24}$ )
- (c) Regardless of the hubris and arrogance of the scientific community, remember this is the “known universe”; no one really knows how much of the universe we cannot see!  
 \*\* (Road sign: “Edge of the Universe 2 miles; take next right.”)

- (d) **\*\*** But, God knows exactly how many stars there are and has a name for each and every one! **Psa. 147:4-5:** “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
- (4) **28** Man’s smallness:
- (a) Remember that tiny red dot on the golf ball? In comparison to the Earth and the Universe we are so small!
  - (b) Vastness of the Universe: Diameter of the observable universe is ~93 billion light years!
  - (c) Physically insignificance: When compared to the universe, we are NOTHING! Not even a “speck:!”
  - (d) **\*\*** Spiritually bankrupt: TOTALLY!
    - ☛ We are even in worse shape spiritually than physically! Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:2; Rom. 6:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 25:41
    - ☛ **\*\***The great hymn writer, Isaac Watts, said we are “...in a state of utter **lostness.**”).
  - (e) **29** Let that soak in!
- (5) On one end of the spectrum man is NOTHING! Physically insignificant; spiritually bankrupt!
- (a) **\*\*** But on the other end of the spectrum: **Man is EVERYTHING!**
  - (b) Man is the focal point of God’s creation! **Psa. 8:3-9:** “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him?”; **Gen. 1:26-27; Jn. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:3.**
  - (c) Think about the great gifts God has given man through “The Starbreather”: **Will God not hold man accountable for such a vaunted position in His creation?!**
- D. **30** Tells us who Jesus really is: He’s EVERYTHING!
- (1) All Christians know:
- (a) He is the “Son of God”: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matt. 16:16; Acts 8:37; Matt. 16:18.
  - (b) He is deity! **Col. 2:9:** “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”; **Heb. 1:3:** “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power,”; Heb. 1
  - (c) He is eternal! Jn. 8:58; Heb. 1:8, 10-12; Rev. 1:8; 22:13
- (2) **\*\*** But, He is also the Starbreather! The creator of ALL things: physical & spiritual; Col. 1; **Jn. 1:3; Psa. 33:6:** “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”
- Psa. 147:4-5a:** “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power...”
- (3) **31** We need to think on this great fact! Our Lord is “The Starbreather”! Then we should better appreciate the enormity of:
- ☛ **\*\***Recognizing His existence! Rom. 1:20; **Psa. 19:1-3;** Acts 17:27
  - ☛ **\*\***Christ’s sacrifice: The Starbreather “gave Himself” (**Gal. 1:4:** “for our sins”; **Gal. 2:20:** “for me”; **Eph. 5:25:** “gave Himself for her [church]”; **Titus 2:6:** “a ransom for all.” God could not have provided a greater sacrifice to redeem us!



- ☛ **\*\*Sin:** the very fact that the only sacrifice capable of washing away sins; of satisfying God's wrath against sin, is the sacrifice of the "Starbreather"! 1 Jn. 4:10; Col. 1:21-22
- ☛ **\*\*God's grace, love and mercy:** 1 Jn. 4:10: "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."; Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16
- ☛ **\*\*His humility!** Phil. 2:5-8 If the Starbreather exhibited such grand humility for us; we must imitate Him! Phil. 2:1-4
- ☛ **\*\*Power available to us!** Eph. 1:19ff: "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power"; 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 12:9; **Psa. 55:22:** "Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."; **Psa. 56:8; Eph. 3:20**
- ☛ **\*\*Our responsibility to Him!** Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 5:8-9; Lk. 6:46; **2 Pet. 1:3-10; Heb. 10:25** (<2.5% of week spent worshiping/studying about "The Starbreather"!)
- ☛ **\*\*Following His Word!** 1 Cor. 2:1-13: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit."; Heb. 1:1-3; Jn. 12:48; Jn. 14, 15, 16; Eph. 3:1-5; Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:11; Col. 3:17; Jn. 14:15 (application to our personal lives and to the church); truth: Psa. 19:8-11; abides forever (1 Pet. 1:23-25), cannot be added to/subtracted from (Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-9)
- ☛ **\*\*Rejecting Him!** Matt. 27:25: "And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.'"; Matt. 13:45-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Mk. 9:42-48; Matt. 25:41
- ☛ **\*\*Joint heirs with Him!** 1 Cor. 15:51-53: immortal & incorruptible body; 1 Jn. 3:2: "we shall be like Him"; **Phil. 3:21:** "conformed to His glorious body"! **Rom. 8:17**

### III. CONCLUSION: 34

1. This is one of those lessons that is difficult to end for there really is no stopping point:

**Job 9:8-10:** "He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; 9 He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; 10 He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number."

**Job 26:14:** "Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

**Psa. 40:5:** "Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."

**Psa. 106:2:** "Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?"

2. Remember Jesus of Nazareth, who died the most shameful and cruel death possible for you and me, is "The Starbreather"! Isa. 40:25-31: **v. 26:** "He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one is missing."
3. "The Starbreather" tenderly invites you to come to Him for salvation! Matt. 11:28-30; 13:45-46

Adapted from a sermon, "The Starbreather," by Jordan Finley (<http://www.reason-for-hope.org/audio.html>).