

The macro world of 'space' is amazing. Hubble telescope has enabled us to see back into the past and view the wonders of 'space'. Most scientists agree today that the universe is about 13.7 billion years old. It is 78 billion light years across and expanding rapidly. It is hard to conceive of the distances when we consider that one light year is 10 trillion kilometres!

In the Milky Way galaxy there are estimated to be 250 billion stars. If the Milky Way was a coffee cup, the known universe would be a 48 kilometre circle! There are possibly 500 billion galaxies! Despite the searching, so far no centre of the universe has been found!

The micro world is just as amazing as the macro world. Every square centimetre of our skin has 15 million cells. We replace every skin cell ten times a year. There are more than 100 trillion bacteria cells in our body. To write out the instructions for a single cell of bacteria would take more books than in three city libraries! If all the DNA information in any one person could be put in writing on paper, you would need an area over 22 million square kilometres to store it! Despite this, the DNA of everybody in the world could fit on an area the size of an aspirin tablet

Clearly, the macro and micro world astounds us. If there is no space outside our universe as some scientists claim, then there are new questions to ask and new realities to consider about God, our spirit and the spirit of others. It suggests that God is in the universe not apart from it and that the universe is one connected whole

The world does not operate as a predictable (machine) model but more with a sense of 'chaos', connectedness and mystery. In this view, science and religion can find common ground.

The Bible's world view was of a round earth that sits at the centre of the universe and at the centre of God's attention. The Dark Ages (5th-11th century) world view was of a flat earth and of angels pushing the planets around! Copernicus and Galileo in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries had a worldview that understood the sun as being at the centre, not the earth. Issac Newton (@1690) created a new world view of a solar system working like a machine obeying common laws

His influence was significant because humans came to be seen like machines too, each with a part to play. In this 'world' God was seen to have created this machine and was now just watched it working. God behaved like a typical (predictable) machine

This could be seen by the stimulus like situations that were suggested.
Say you believe in God...you will be saved

Sin....you will be condemned
Say sorry.....you will be forgiven
Obey the law...you will be blessed
Pull a leveryou will receive a reward
Do not touch that button....hell!

This can sound irreverent, but for some it came to be like this. The task was to minimise loss and maximise personal gain. To understand the whole, you had to understand the parts. All large things could be broken down into small things...even the atom.

If there was a child being disruptive child then the child could receive help. It wasn't considered necessary to consider fixing the family! If a person was selling drugs, then send him or her person to jail. Often the real issue was not addressed.

In fact we know that the world is not like a clock. It is more like a web (inter- connected) Life is connected and humans can recognise that the sacred is present in every form of life. Primitive people knew this

Some of our language and images we have been using are inadequate and always will be, but they may need to expand Our young generation is growing up with new knowledge and they are asking different questions. Most consider religion irrelevant. Their questions are different. Our prayer, ritual, liturgy spirituality and theology needs to help them and us relate to God and others as best we can

We have more questions than answers - but that leads to faith and to hope Primitive people knew about connectedness, but the western world began to seek to overpower creation (destroy and pollute the environment) where God lives. But we are connected!

This is what we are trying to live and give expression to in our Passionist Family Groups

Life is about relationships