

Well, it happened at 7:49 a.m. EST this morning. Launched on January 19, 2006, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft traveled for nearly ten years, across 3 *billion* miles of space, to hit a window *37 x 50 miles wide* on a trajectory near Pluto and beyond to the Kuiper Belt.

Read that again and try to let it sink in.



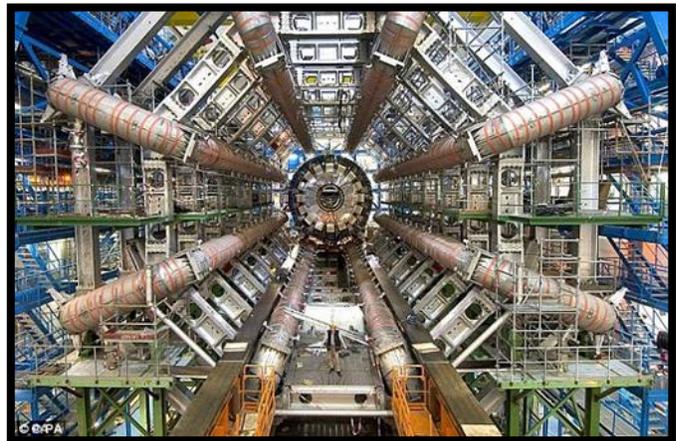
The United States is now the only nation that has sent spacecraft to every planet (or dwarf planet, in Pluto's case<sup>1</sup>) in the Solar System. It is absolutely incredible that such things can be done, and that we have lived to see it!



On the other end of the continuum that runs from unimaginable vastness to unimaginable smallness, scientists at the world's largest particle accelerator, the enormous underground Large Hadron Collider in Europe, announced today that they have found the elusive pentaquark particle. Believed to hold some of the secrets of how matter is formed, a pentaquark is a subatomic particle consisting of four quarks and

one antiquark bound together. It is the binding together that is of particular interest . . . and we have lived to see this, too. Who knows what our grandchildren will live to see?!!!

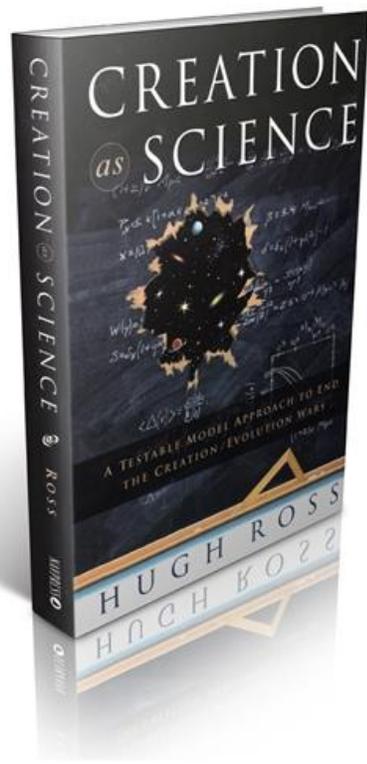
And all of this has reminded me of a book I read seven or eight years ago, not long after its publication. The book is *Creation as Science: A Testable Model Approach to End the Creation/Evolution Wars*.<sup>2</sup>



An astrophysicist, Ross begins with the affirmation that "Either everything that exists, including life and humanity, is the natural

<sup>1</sup> Some these days call Pluto a KBO, or "Kuiper Belt Object." See diagram at end of *Laptop*.

<sup>2</sup> Hugh Ross, (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006). All page numbers refer to this book.



outcome of a self-existent universe, or it's not. Either the universe was designed with purpose and meaning, or it was not. The entire cosmos either explains itself, or it does not. Creation either happened, or it did not" (p. 14).

Ross continues by noting that "Not all beliefs or interpretations correspond equally well with physical reality. Some correspond well, some correspond poorly, and others flatly contradict. . . . Exploring the physical evidence related to the origin and history of the universe, life, and humanity can illuminate the strengths and limitations of a particular interpretation. Asking appropriate questions can help reveal which explanation most closely corresponds to facts. . . . All credible evidence must be considered when determining how closely a particular interpretation (or prediction) corresponds to reality" (p. 23).<sup>3</sup>

Ross makes a number of very interesting statements in the book, arguing for his own version of what is usually termed "ID," or "Intelligent Design." He makes a number of intriguing affirmations that I am not qualified to evaluate, such as "For an advanced species as technically capable as humanity to arise from a suite of bacterial species in

10 billion years or less, the probability is  $10^{-24,000,000}$ . Such a number is indistinguishable from zero" (p. 152).<sup>4</sup>

At the same time, Ross does provide eighty-nine hypotheses that he says are potentially testable, comparing his interpretation of the predictions expected by four of the major explanatory models of the universe: Naturalism; Young-Earth Creationism; Theistic Evolution; and his own model, which he calls "RTB" (Reasons to Believe).<sup>5</sup> As might be expected, the book has received widely-varying reviews from persons of various viewpoints.

Today's fly-by of Pluto reminded me of these additional thoughts from Ross: "Since the universe began about 13.73 billion years ago, cosmic expansion has increased the distance between star clusters, galaxies, and galaxy clusters by nearly a thousand times. But, because the speed of light has exceeded the speed of cosmic expansion (by an average of 100 times), the proportion of the universe visible to an Earth-bound spectator has increased at an even faster rate.

"For the first time in cosmic history, light from the most distant galaxies and star clusters has reached the Milky Way Galaxy where human observers can detect it. Even the

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<sup>3</sup> "Typically, researchers hold fast to an existing model, no matter what its defects, until they see an alternate model that works better in five ways. The new model must (1) give a wider and more detailed view of what's going on; (2) make better sense of the established data; (3) provide more reasonable and consistent explanations for the phenomena under investigation; (4) result in fewer unexplained anomalies and gaps; and (5) prove more successful in anticipating or predicting future findings" (pp. 51-52).

<sup>4</sup> Citing John Barrow and Frank Tipler, *The Anthropic Cosmological Principle* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 510-573.

<sup>5</sup> See [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org). See also Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points toward God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004). Looking over the variety of reviews on Amazon would be helpful here as well.

radiation left over from the cosmic creation event (cosmic background radiation) is discernible. This is also the *last* era in cosmic history when such light and radiation will be visible.

“Dark energy causes the universe’s expansion to speed up as the cosmos ages. This space energy density already has accelerated this expansion so much that objects formed just after the creation event are moving away from human observers at nearly the velocity of light. Soon dark energy will cause the expansion to accelerate beyond light’s velocity. Then, distant objects will no longer be visible from Earth’s vantage point.

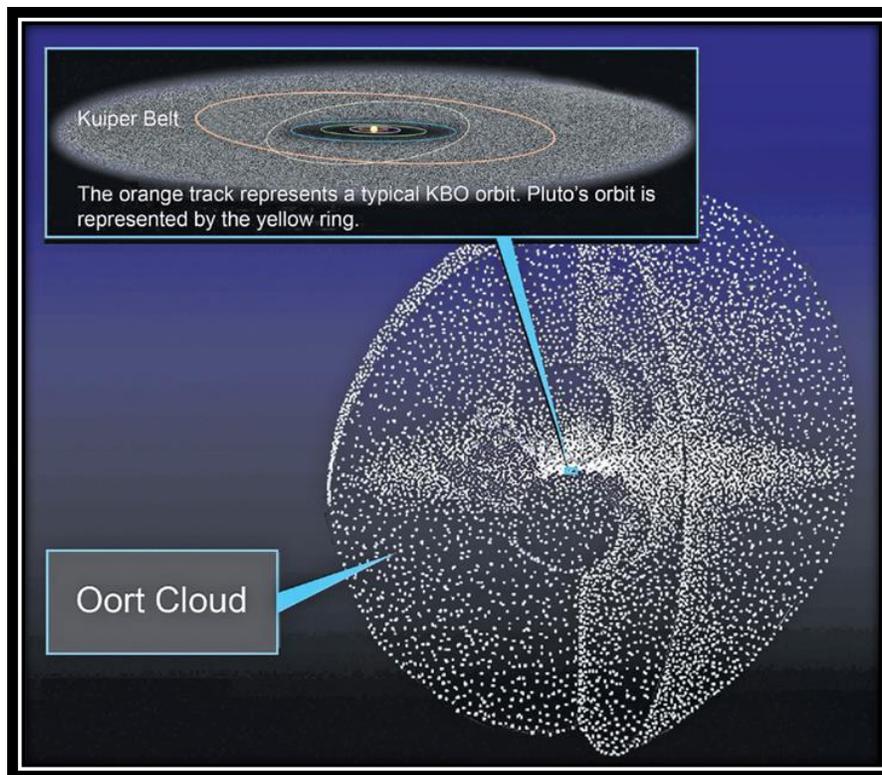
“As the universe expands at a progressively faster rate under the influence of dark energy, humans will see less and less of the universe. *Humanity lives at the only moment in cosmic history when the first-formed stars, the galaxies, and even the cosmic background radiation can be observed.* From an evolutionary perspective, such a circumstance is sheer coincidence. From a biblical perspective, the Creator timed humanity’s moment in cosmic history to facilitate discovery of His existence and of His attributes through observation and consideration of the heavens” (pp. 100-102).

And all of this reminds me of these words from Psalm 19:1-4:

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

For those with eyes to see, “all nature sings and round me rings, the music of the spheres.”<sup>6</sup> Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Dave



<sup>6</sup> Maltbie Babcock, “This Is My Father’s World.”

