

Introduction to Space-Time Response from 2009

The essay "Space-Time Response" was developed as a response to a question JJ Johnson forwarded to me in 2009 from an individual URANTIA Book student who posed in a URANTIA reader's group forum the following: "If that is true [light particles have weight Cf. 15:6.13 (173.11)] wouldn't the "bending of light" which "confirmed" so-called 'space-time curvature' have just as well been confirmation of Newtonian gravity? (The light from distant suns (stars) bent by the gravity pull of our Sun).".

My response delves into the relationship between modern scientific theories, particularly those of Einstein and Newton, and the cosmological insights presented in The URANTIA Book. I begin by responding to the question about the bending of light and whether it confirms space-time curvature or Newtonian gravity. The questioner appears to argue that while Einstein did not refute Newtonian gravity, his theory of relativity provides a more comprehensive framework that includes the concept of space-time curvature, which complements rather than contradicts Newtonian mechanics.

Throughout the essay, I explore the notion that The URANTIA Book offers an expansive view that can integrate various scientific and spiritual insights. The discussion extends to the role of the Almighty Supreme, a concept from The URANTIA Book that I believe is crucial for understanding the cosmos. The essay posits that as science continues to unlock new mysteries, an integrated cosmos-view that includes the spiritual dimensions described in The URANTIA Book will become increasingly necessary.

I discuss the contributions of other thinkers, such as Alfred North Whitehead and Charles Hartshorne, whose process philosophy and theology echo some of the revelatory concepts found in The URANTIA Book. They suggest that integrating these philosophical insights with modern scientific discoveries, particularly in quantum and plasma physics, can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the universe. The essay emphasizes the need for a larger, more descriptive universe framework to accommodate emerging scientific knowledge. Whitehead and Hartshorne are stepping stones to the expansive cosmology of the revelation.

One significant aspect of the essay is the discussion of Immanuel Velikovsky's theories on electromagnetic forces in the universe, which were largely dismissed by Einstein. The response highlights the ongoing relevance of Velikovsky's ideas, particularly in light of recent advancements in plasma physics, which support the concept of an "Electric Universe." This notion challenges the gravity-centric view of celestial mechanics and suggests a more significant role for electrical forces in shaping the cosmos. Again, there is much scaffolding in the revelation that leads to this as a valid concept to investigate.

The essay also touches on the importance of synthesizing science and religion to create a harmonious understanding of the universe. I cite passages from The URANTIA Book that advocate for a rational synthesis of scientific and religious perspectives, proposing that such an approach can bridge the apparent gaps between these fields. This synthesis, they argue, is essential for achieving a coherent and satisfying understanding of the universe and our place within it.

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In conclusion, "Space-Time Response" presents a thought-provoking examination of the intersections between scientific theories and some cosmic and spiritual insights from The URANTIA Book. I advocate for an integrated approach that incorporates both scientific rigor and spiritual wisdom, suggesting that this holistic perspective is necessary for advancing our understanding of the cosmos and addressing the complexities of modern scientific discoveries.

This particular version of my response of so long ago has been updated with current conventional use of the URANTIA Book references, a few grammar edits, and references where they seemed to needed. I Expect to update this in a forthcoming essay, but I dare say not much will need to be amended, merely added with discoveries and my progressive growth in connecting the revelation's dots.

- Bob Debold, Fairfax, VA. July 2024