

From Our Pastor

March 24, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

"Somewhere in the cosmos, perhaps, intelligent life may be watching these lights of ours aware of what they mean," Stephen Hawking said. Hawking, the world-famous physicist who died last week at age 76, then asked, "Or do our lights wander a lifeless cosmos, unseen beacons announcing that here on our rock, the universe discovered its existence?"

While Dr. Hawking was obviously a scientific genius by human standards and acclaimed worldwide as a profound mind, he is an apt illustration that human brilliance, apart from revealed knowledge from our Creator, leads often to unsubstantiated theories and suppositions that are unknowable, unprovable, and perhaps a bit ridiculous.

CNBC.com said of Hawking, "Hawking, who was perhaps best known for his work on black holes and the theory of relativity, had previously posited the idea that Earth would turn into a giant ball of fire by 2600. Therefore, humans would eventually need to colonize another planet or face extinction, he said."

A UK newspaper, The Sunday Times, noted that Hawking "was a coauthor of a mathematical paper in which he sought to prove the so-called "multiverse" theory. This theory imagines the existence of many separate universes other than our own." So influential was he that others financed huge projects in efforts to prove his theories. In 2015, Hawking joined Russian billionaire Yuri Milner to launch a project that aimed to use high-powered computers to listen for aliens. The project, known as Breakthrough Initiatives, is working with SETI (the Search for Extra Terrestrial Life), a project that has spent billions searching the known universe for evidence of life beyond ours, yet so far has found none. Hawking also said robots will eventually replace humanity completely. He predicted that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will eventually be a "new form of life that will outperform humans" He said: "I fear that AI may replace humans altogether." (Cambridge News, March-15-2018.)

Hawking was a well-known atheist and supporter of the theory of evolution, but despite that there is a slight element of truth in two of his ideas. First, there is "life out there"--an invisible Creator who is very aware of people and all that is going on here on earth. That Creator brought into existence all that there is. The truth is, "by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, (Colossians 1:16)." Everything in the cosmos was created by Him for His purpose, a purpose few people understand.

Secondly, there is another dimension of life, or "alternate universe" so to speak. It is the spirit realm of God, angels, and demons. Jesus said, "God is spirit" in John 4:24 and Paul later described God as, "the King eternal, immortal, invisible, ... God who alone is

wise."(1 Timothy 1:17). There are a number of accounts in God's word of men who saw into the spirit world and wrote down for us descriptions of what they experienced. In fact, our purpose in life is to one day make the transition from this temporary physical life to an immortal spirit one in that spirit dimension (1 Corinthians 15).

Hawking's greatest and most frequent error was in predicting the end of the world as a result of human activities. His reasons ran the gambit from global warming to nuclear war and electronic inventions. The truth is, our Creator is not going to let us self-destruct. In the coming days of wars and suffering on the earth, Jesus Christ will intervene to save man from his wicked ways. In Jesus own words, "Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:22)"

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