

Hubble, the Stars and Torah

One of the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope (“Celebrating 25 Years of the Hubble Space Telescope,” Features, 10 Sivan/May 28) that has surprised scientists is the crystal clear sharpness of all its images, even those supposedly from billions of light years away. That there is no blurring, distortion or diminution in clarity at all, regardless of distance, has led to doubts in the validity of the use of the Red Shift as a “cosmic yardstick” in the Big Bang theory, a theory which Harav Shimon Schwab called “a preposterous *shtus*” (*Rav Schwab on Prayer*, page 444, ArtScroll 2001). Jewish cosmologist Professor Sir Hermann Bondi said, “Modern cosmology is so likely to be wrong that I propose to ignore it!”

There is evidence that the stars are much smaller than is commonly believed and that they are not at the vertiginous distances claimed, the savants admitting that the distances to the stars and galaxies are only “estimated,” “apparent,” “approximate,” “inferred,” “indicated,” “assumed” or “guessed” and that their true distance has yet to be determined. Parallax is inaccurate beyond 300 light years, there being no empirical evidence obliging one to commit to a universe larger than 600 light years in diameter, with it possibly being much smaller.

The Rambam states that “no star is bigger than the sun” (*Hilchos Yesodei HaTorah* 3:8) and that the *Galgal Hattshi'i* – the Ninth Sphere – is the border of this physical universe: “The distance from the Earth to the firmament is a journey of 500 years, and the thickness of the firmament is a journey of 500 years, and likewise the distance between one firmament and the other” (*Chagigah* 13).

Modern cosmology is based on two unproven assumptions: 1. That the Earth revolves around the sun, contradicted by all experiments ever performed: Not a smidgen of the Earth’s purported 67,000 mph speed has ever been detected or measured, and 2. The utterly illogical Copernican Principle: that any point in the universe is the same as any other.



A recent American science documentary, “The Principle,” brings the latest astronomical discoveries showing the great errors of the Copernican Principle, and how the Earth is indeed located at the geometrical, gravitational and axial rotation center of the universe: “The Earth is located at the center of the universe” (*Hilchos Yesodei HaTorah* 3:4). “The Earth is established, it cannot be moved” (*Tehillim* 93).

Hashem humbles us by asking (*Iyov* 38), “Where were you when I laid the Earth’s foundation ... when the morning stars sang in unison? ... Can you bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loosen the bands of Orion? ... Can you bring forth each planet in its time or guide Ursa with her sons? ... Do you know the ordinances of heaven?”

Amnon Goldberg, TZEFA

Financial Literacy 101

One of the articles I look forward to every second week in the Features section is produced by Mesilah. (From their bio at the bottom of the page: “an interna-

tional organization dedicated to promoting the financial health of Jewish families, businesses and communities...”) The advice in each week’s column is practical – such as knowing what one might want to train in before going to college – but it is the very existence of this organization that deserves praise.

As my youngest child returns from seminary in Israel (how did we pull that off?) and starts her second year of studies (no, she doesn’t know what to do yet), I’m kind of horrified as I take stock of my family’s situation. In some ways it reflects the general dismal state of affairs of the American middle class, but it has its own kinks and pitfalls peculiar to Orthodox Jewish life – you all know the drill, just to name a few: tuition, camp, and the need to live within reasonable walking distance of shul, one factor in the high price of rent. And it all is underlain with an odd sense of entitlement that cannot possibly be healthy.

Knowing I’m not alone in this crisis doesn’t really help.

A sea change is called for in regard to income versus outgo and what counts as a “must have.” I also really do not understand why rents must be so high, because in practical terms, high rent is a neighborhood-killer.

Becoming financially literate is an excellent first step to breaking a difficult cycle of poverty. *Hamodia* is to be commended for helping Mesilah put this kind of information before the eyes of the public.

Ahuva M., BROOKLYN, NY

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 Have your voice heard.
 Send your questions, comments or feedback on any article to englishweekly@hamodia.com and get your point across.
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Candle Lighting

City	Hadlakas Neiros	Motzoei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam
Antwerp	9:39	11:12	11:10
Arosa	8:57	10:16	10:28
Baltimore	8:15	9:23	9:46
Berlin	9:11	10:48	10:42
Boston	8:03	9:14	9:34
Bournemouth	9:05	10:33	10:33
Chicago	8:08	9:18	9:38
Cincinnati	8:46	9:54	10:17
Cleveland	8:42	9:53	10:13
Davos	8:56	10:16	10:27
Detroit	8:51	10:02	10:22
Glasgow	9:46	11:45	11:14
Haifa	7:18	8:32	9:01
Jerusalem	7:04	8:27	8:57
Johannesburg	5:02	6:00	6:34
Lakewood	8:08	9:17	9:39
Leeds	9:21	11:03	10:50
London	9:02	10:34	10:42
Los Angeles	7:45	8:47	9:16
Manchester	9:22	10:57	10:50
Marseille	9:01	10:13	10:32
Melbourne	4:49	5:50	6:19
Miami	7:54	8:52	9:25
Montreal	8:25	9:42	9:56
New York	8:09	9:18	9:40
Paris	9:36	11:00	11:07
Philadelphia	8:11	9:20	9:42
Pittsburgh	8:32	9:41	10:03
St. Louis	8:07	9:14	9:38
Sydney	4:34	5:34	6:05
Tel Aviv	7:25	8:30	9:00
Toronto	8:41	9:54	10:12
Tyneside	9:29	11:19	10:57
Zurich	9:02	10:25	10:35

Daily Calendar

Day	Yerushalmi	Rambam Yomi	Mishna Yomis	Halachah Yomis
Thursday	נדרים יח	קדוש החדש א	נגעים ד-ה, יא-א	ש"ע או"ח תרו, ב-ד
Friday	נדרים יט	קדוש החדש ב	נגעים ה, ב-ג	ש"ע או"ח תרז, א-ג
Shabbos	נדרים כ	קדוש החדש ג	נגעים ה, ד-ה	ש"ע או"ח תרז, ד-ו
Sunday	נדרים כא	קדוש החדש ד	נגעים ו, א-ב	ש"ע או"ח תרח, א-ג
Monday	נדרים כב	קדוש החדש ה	נגעים ו, ג-ד	ש"ע או"ח תרח-תרי, ד-א
Tuesday	נדרים כג	קדוש החדש ו	נגעים ו, ה-ו	ש"ע או"ח תרי, ב-ד
Wednesday	נדרים כד	קדוש החדש ז	נגעים ז, ז-ח	ש"ע או"ח תריא-ב, א-א

Weekly Zemanim

City	Alos	Neitz	Shema	Shacharis	Shekiah
Thursday, 24 Sivan, June 11					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:16	7:49
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:07	10:18	7:46
Ashdod	4:08	5:35	9:08	10:19	7:46
Friday, 25 Sivan, June 12					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:17	7:49
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:07	10:18	7:47
Ashdod	4:07	5:35	9:08	10:19	7:47
Shabbos, 26 Sivan, June 13					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:17	7:50
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:07	10:18	7:47
Ashdod	4:07	5:35	9:08	10:19	7:47
Sunday, 27 Sivan, June 14					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:17	7:50
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:07	10:18	7:48
Ashdod	4:07	5:35	9:08	10:19	7:47
Monday, 28 Sivan, June 15					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:17	7:51
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:07	10:18	7:48
Ashdod	4:07	5:35	9:08	10:19	7:48
Tuesday, 29 Sivan, June 16					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:17	7:51
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:07	10:19	7:48
Ashdod	4:07	5:35	9:08	10:19	7:48
Wednesday, 30 Sivan, June 17					
Jerusalem	4:05	5:33	9:06	10:17	7:51
Tel Aviv	4:06	5:34	9:08	10:19	7:49
Ashdod	4:07	5:35	9:08	10:20	7:48