



EXODUS

A STORY OF
**REDEMPTION
AND COVENANT**



Trust God's Promises

- It can be hard to trust in God's promises when things look bleak
- Exodus 6:1–6:9
- This is a turning point in biblical history, God was building a new relationship with His people and revealing Himself to them in a new way.
- In Genesis, He appeared to the patriarchs as God Almighty, a title of power and sovereignty but not intimacy.
- With Moses, God revealed His personal name (verses 2–3).

Trust God's Promises

- God described having heard their groaning.
- This is not a distant, uninvolved deity; this is God who knows our pain and comes to our rescue (verses 4–5).
- God described taking them to the Promised Land and living there with them (verses 6–8).
- This is a God who comes and meets us where we are, who comes into the middle of our mess and dwells with us in intimate relationship.

Trust God's Promises

- We must remember what they had gone through, and the history of the previous 400 years.
- God had first called Abraham more than 500 years earlier, but Abraham lived his whole life as a sojourner in the Promised Land. He and Sarah did have a miraculous child, but he never saw the full fulfillment of God's promises to his family.
- Isaac and Jacob also lived as sojourners in the land. While they did accumulate wealth, they never owned any part of the Promised Land; they lived in tents.

Trust God's Promises

- Joseph rose to a position of power and prestige in Egypt and even saved the world from famine. But he went through a roller coaster of betrayal, beating, slavery and prison to get there. He saved his family from famine and brought them to their own part of the land of Egypt, which may have felt a bit like a fulfillment of God's promises, but it wasn't the Promised Land.
- God's people had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Yes, they had multiplied into a large nation, but they had been enslaved by Pharaoh, so being a "great nation" might have felt as though that promise hadn't been fulfilled.

Trust God's Promises

- But then, two guys suddenly showed up, saying they had been called by God, and they could even do miracles to prove it.
- They were excited.
- These promises were real! They weren't a myth!
- God did hear them and care about them!
- But Moses and Aaron's first attempt at convincing Pharaoh to free the people only resulted in his making their labor harder.

Trust God's Promises

- It is completely understandable that they would doubt God's promise to Moses at this point.
- We shouldn't blame them for their lack of faith.
- Later, when they saw God's miraculous power and His salvation and still doubted, we can blame them for it.
- But at this point, it's completely understandable that they didn't believe Moses.

Trust God's Promises

- It can be hard to trust in the promises of God when you don't see any physical "blessings" in your life.
- Even if we have all the spiritual blessings in the world, when things aren't going well for us physically – financially, health-wise, in our careers or our relationships – it can be hard to believe God is working for our good.
- Even when we can't see "blessings" in our lives, we can trust that God is working everything for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

God Chose Whom to Use

- God is the One who chooses whom to use and consecrate for His purposes
- Exodus 6:10–27
- Moses said Pharaoh wouldn't listen to him because he was of "uncircumcised lips."
- He was speaking figuratively, as God did through Jeremiah – "Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, remove the foreskin of your hearts" (Jeremiah 4:4).
- Some scholars believe that Moses doubted that he really had the prophetic gift of speaking God's Word.

God Chose Whom to Use

- Circumcising your heart is about consecrating yourself to the Lord on the inside, not just on the outside.
- In Jeremiah, Yahweh declared that He would punish those who are “circumcised merely in the flesh” but not in the heart (Jeremiah 9:25–26).
- Note that in the narratives regarding their calls, Isaiah said his lips were “unclean” and Jeremiah said he didn’t feel equipped to speak for God (Jeremiah 1; Isaiah 6).
- Humility is common for prophets to feel when given such huge callings.

God Chose Whom to Use

- God was about to really show them His power.
- That first try wasn't a failure; it was part of the plan, to show them just how harsh Pharaoh really was and how much he did not want to let them go so that they would be rightly amazed when he finally did.
- He would not only let them go but would drive them out of the land (verse 1).
- That's how much of a turnaround Pharaoh would have after God showed him who was really in control. And then they would all really "know that I am Yahweh your God" (verse 7).

God Chose Whom to Use

- God is sovereign over every nation on earth, over all things
- Exodus 6:28–7:7
- God told Israel He was finally going to fulfill the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so long ago.
- He would rescue them from slavery, bring them into their own land, and live with them in covenant relationship.
- But Moses didn't feel qualified to speak before Pharaoh. He had tried once, and Pharaoh had only made their labor harder.

God Chose Whom to Use

- God told Moses that He had made him like a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron was his prophet (spokesman).
- In Egyptian culture, Pharaoh was considered a god, not just a human king.
- By the end of this, Moses would show such power that Pharaoh would see Moses as a god, too.
- This doesn't mean Moses was actually a god, just that Pharaoh would see him that way. Pharaoh would see him as an equal, or even greater than himself.

God Chose Whom to Use

- But this would take some time. Pharaoh's hard heart would ensure that he wouldn't listen to Moses right away.
- This was so the people of Egypt could see the plagues getting bigger and bigger and see God as more and more powerful until there could be no doubt He was God of the whole universe.
- If Pharaoh had given in right away, God's great power and His great mercy in providing the Passover lamb as a means of salvation would not have been shown.

God Chose Whom to Use

- In the New Testament, Paul described God as raising up Pharaoh for this exact purpose, “that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth” (Romans 9:17, quoting Exodus 9:16).
- As we will see in the rest of Exodus, the story alternates between saying God hardened Pharaoh’s heart and Pharaoh hardened his own heart, showing an interplay of God’s sovereignty and Pharaoh’s free will.

God Chose Whom to Use

- The text specifically says that the Egyptians, not just Israel, would know He is the Lord.
- The Old Testament tells us that because this story was so amazing, all the nations heard about God's great power (Joshua 2:8–11).
- Through Pharaoh's hardness of heart, God showed everyone on earth that He is Lord over all things, not just over Israel.
- He is Lord over Egypt and Pharaoh.

God Chose Whom to Use

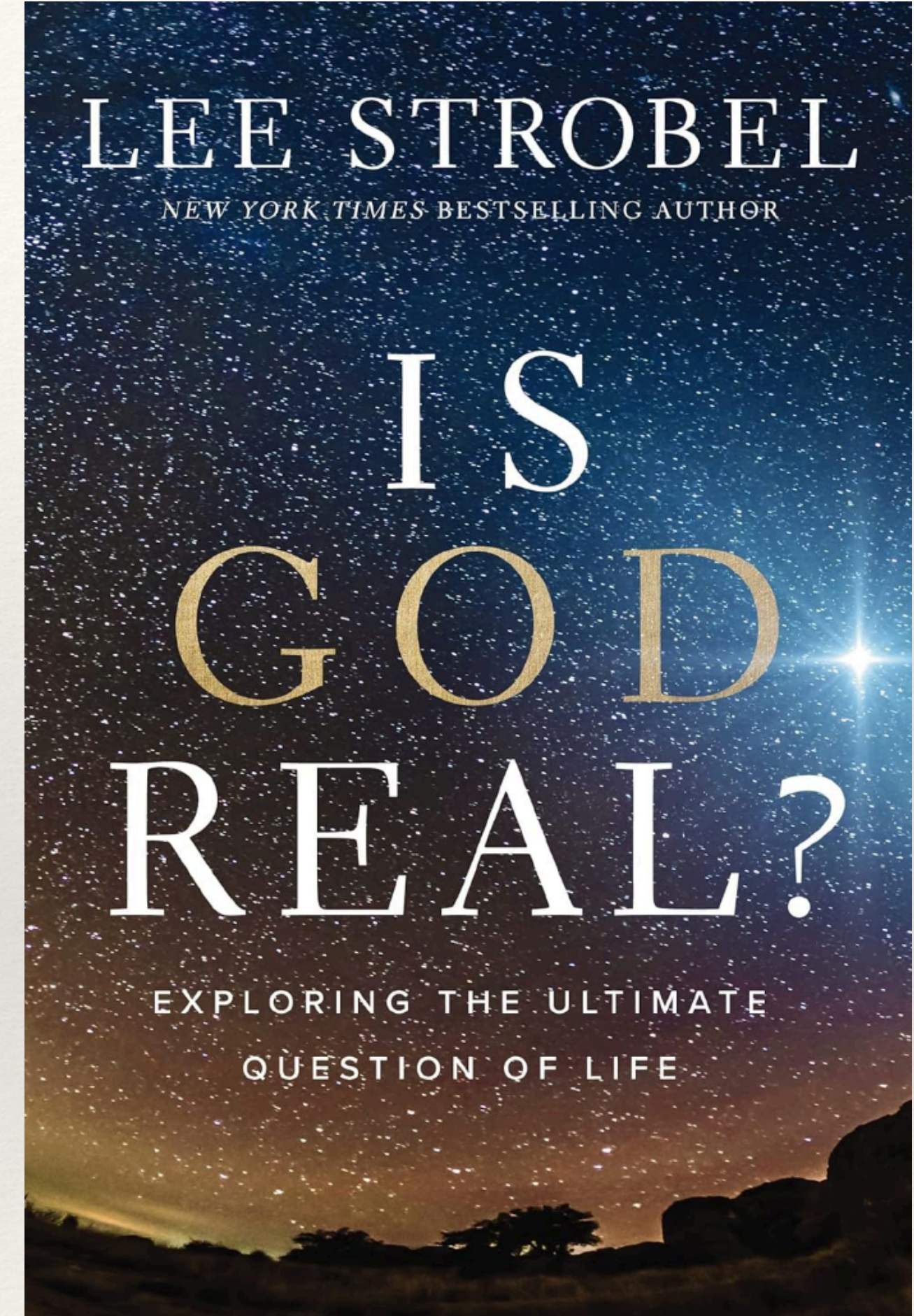
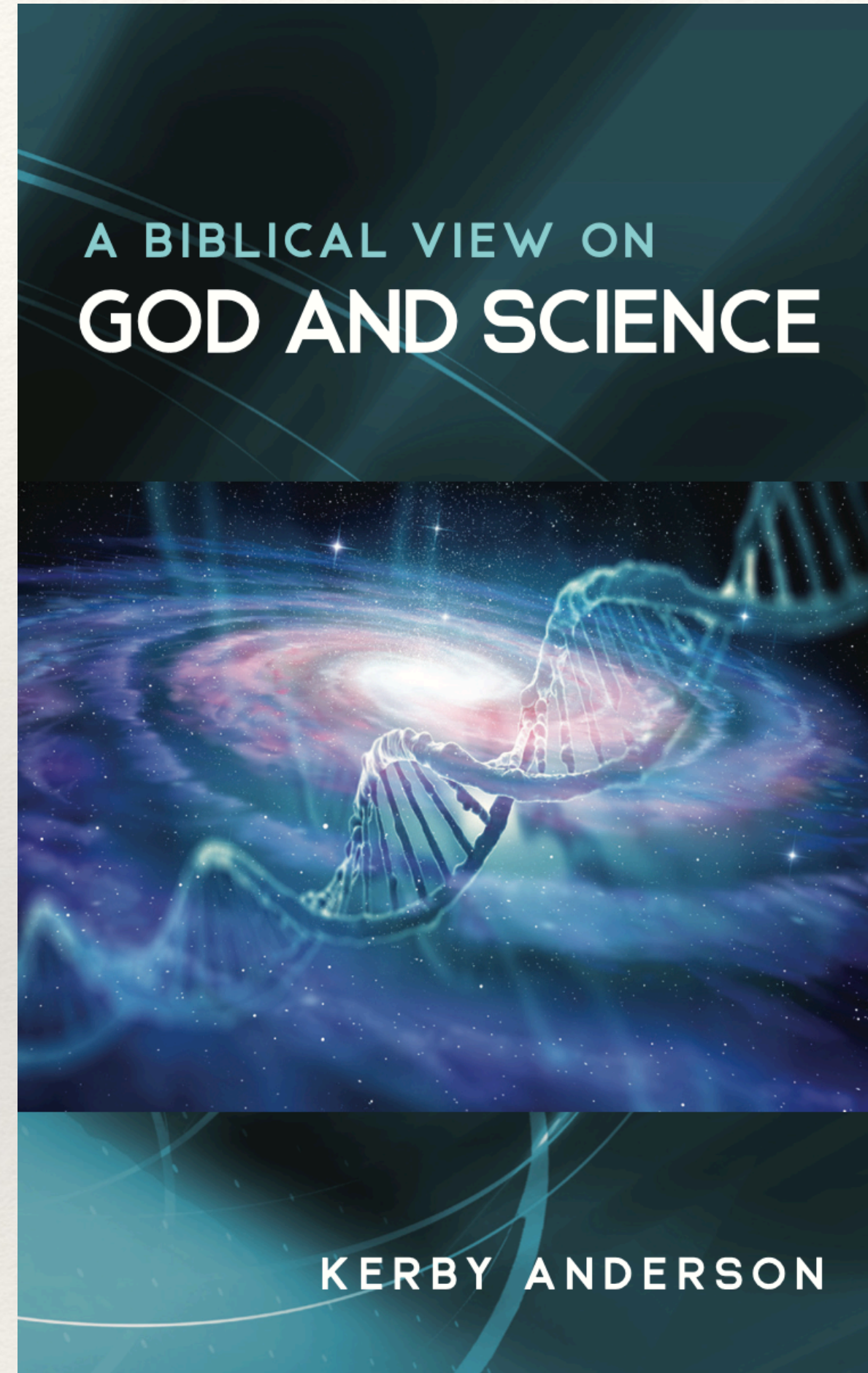
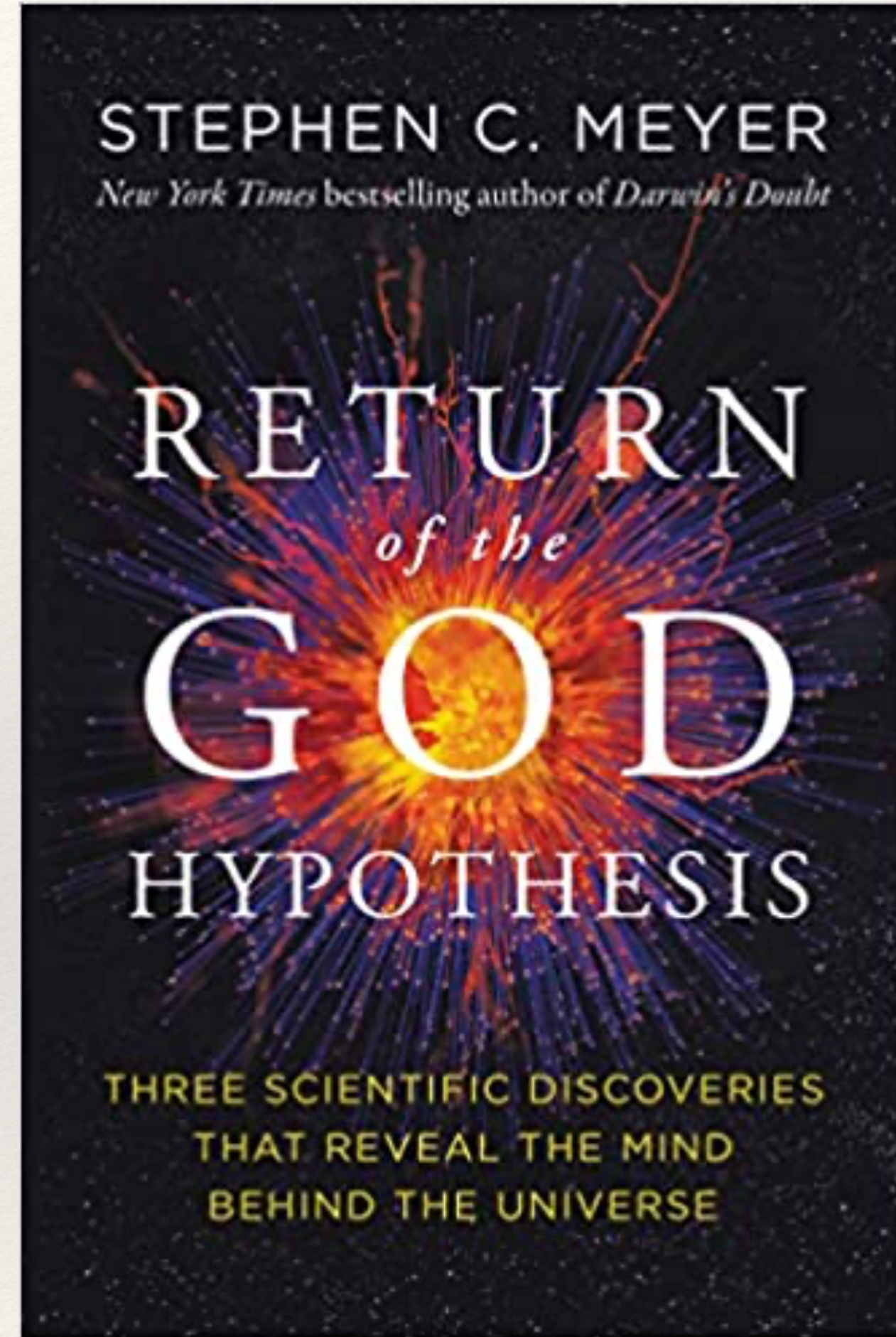
- He is Lord over locusts, boils, the Nile – over nature, disease, even life and death.
- He is Lord over all of humanity, and He is a God of mercy, salvation, provision, and power for those who trust in Him.
- He sent plagues on Pharaoh, whose heart was hard, who was an “object of wrath,” but He redeemed all those who trusted in Him by the blood of the Passover lamb.

The Fingerprints of God



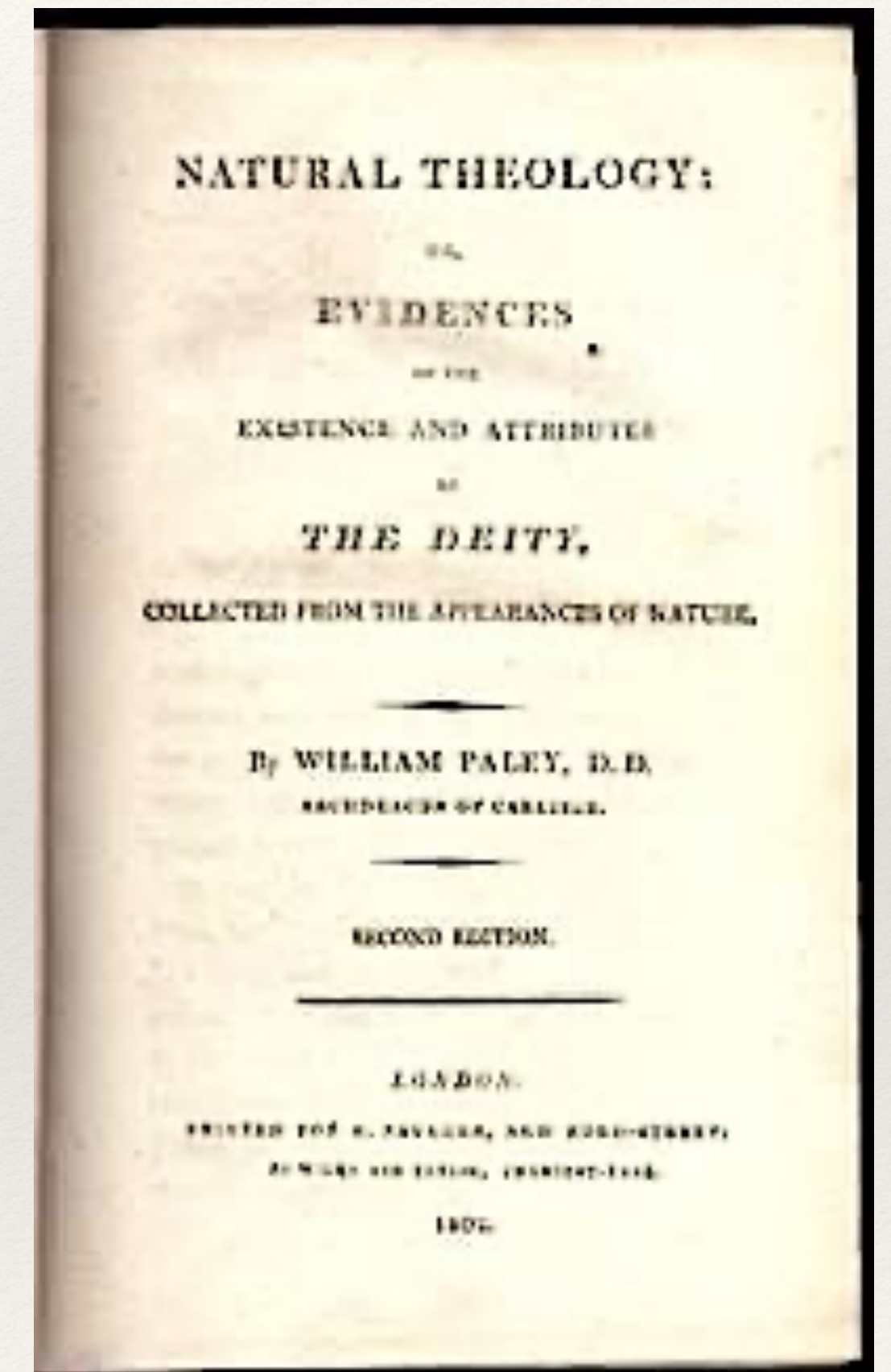
The Fingerprints of God

- The Bible clearly teaches that God exists and created the world.
- Psalm 19:1 proclaims that: “The heavens declare the glory of God.”
- Romans 1:20 teaches: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”
- Do the latest scientific discoveries provide even greater evidence for God?



Design Argument

- William Paley (1743-1805) was a British philosopher and clergyman. In the book, *Natural Theology*, he offered an argument for the truth of the Creator and His work.
- The stone is a “natural” object, just like other stones.
- The watch is in a separate category. It displays planning and craftsmanship, beauty and usefulness.
- A watch requires a watchmaker.
- Design requires a Designer.



Rise of Scientific Materialism

- During the Enlightenment, the focus was on reason and rationalism.
 - David Hume argued against miracles.
 - Auguste Comte proposed a dichotomy between science and religion.
 - Immanuel Kant argued against the cosmological argument.
 - Pierre Laplace said to Napoleon “I have no need of that hypothesis.”
 - Then came Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud.

Comprehensive Materialism

- The three figures established a comprehensive materialism:
 - Darwin, from biology, told us where we came from.
 - Marx, with a secular eschatology, told us where we are going.
 - Freud, with psychology, told us what to do with the human condition.
- Stephen Meyer: “By the end of the 19th century, you had this materialistic worldview that answered all the basic questions that Judeo-Christian religion had always answered.”

Return of the God Hypothesis

Light from Distant Galaxies

- Dating back to classical antiquity, most philosophers (Aristotle) thought that the universe existed forever. Jewish and Christian philosophers argued that the idea of creation *ex nihilo* implied that the universe had a beginning.
- Astronomers started to argue that the universe could not be infinite.
- Edwin Hubble, using the most powerful telescope in the world, calculated that the Andromeda galaxy and other galaxies were receding from earth.
- Other scientists also reported that the light from these galaxies was shifted to the red part of the spectrum (Doppler effect).



Light from Distant Galaxies

- Other scientists (Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias) also measured background radiation.
- All of this evidence confirmed the idea of the big bang theory.
- Robert Jastrow concludes his book, *God and the Astronomers*:
- “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

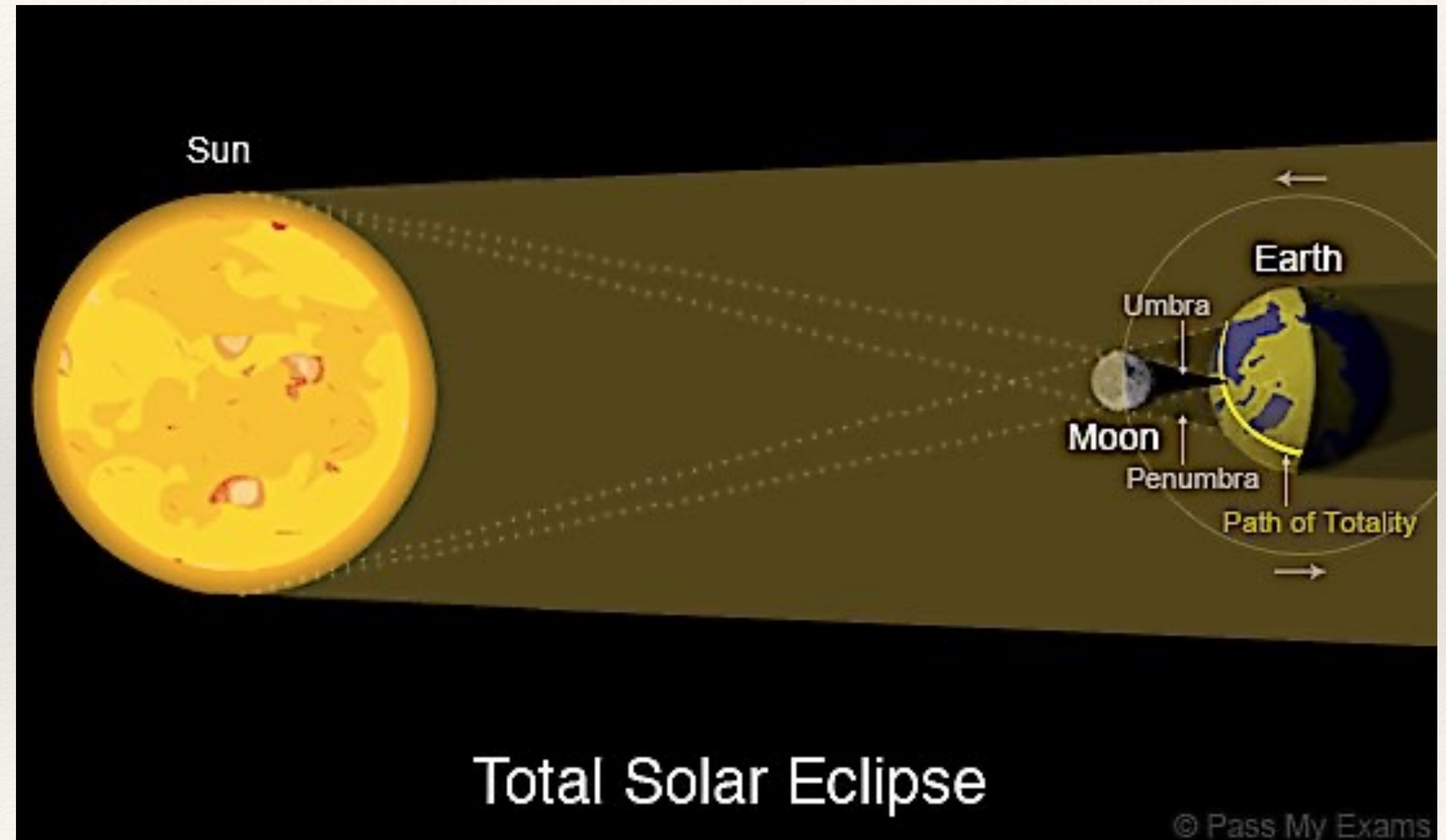
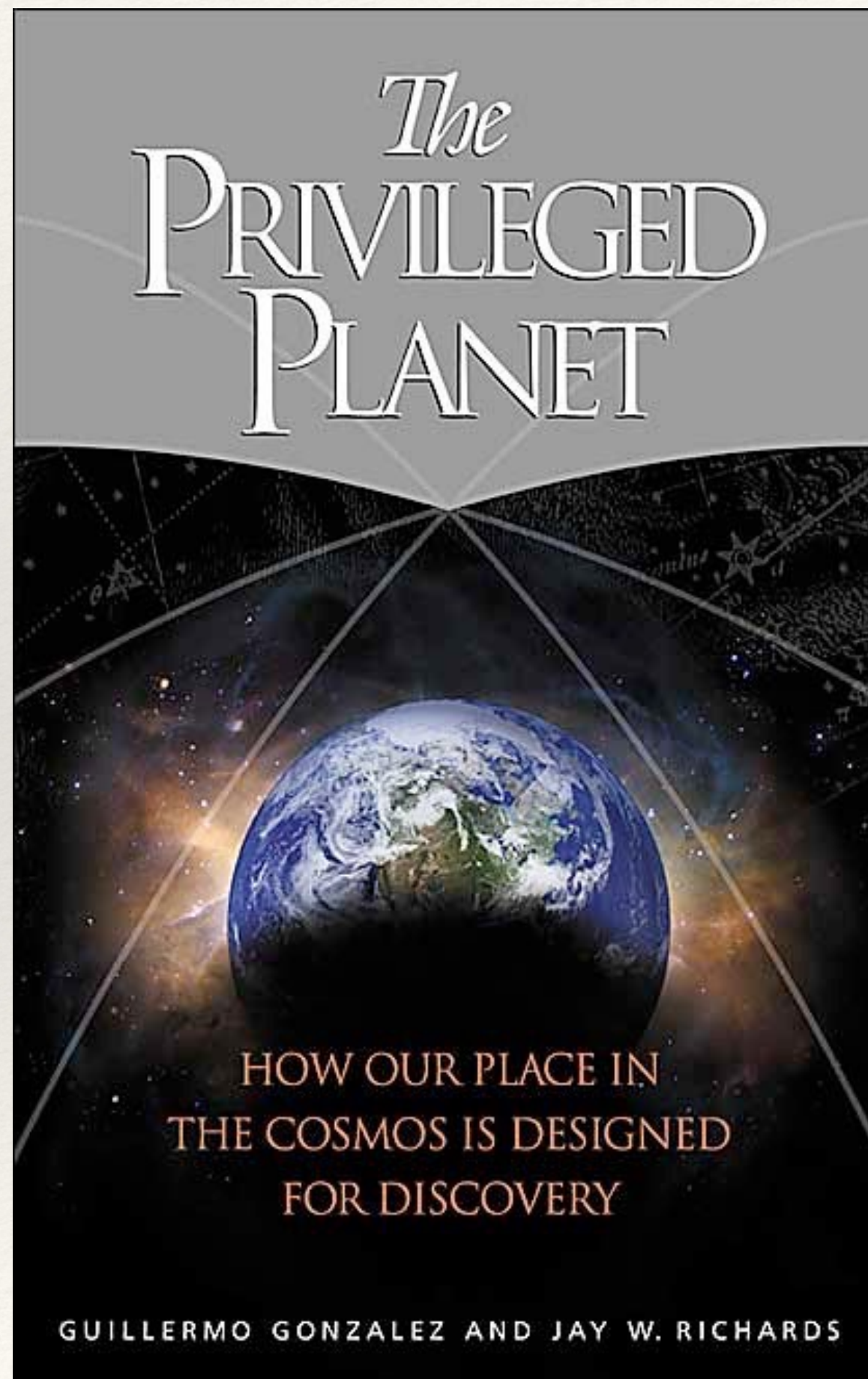
Impossible Probabilities

- Michael Strauss has done research about the strong nuclear force. This is what holds together the nucleus of atoms.
- If it were just two percent stronger, you would have more elements in the periodic table, but they would be radioactive and life-destroying. Also, you would have little hydrogen in the universe, means no hydrogen, no water, no life.
- If you turned the knob the other way and decreased the force by five percent, you would just have hydrogen. It would be a dead universe.

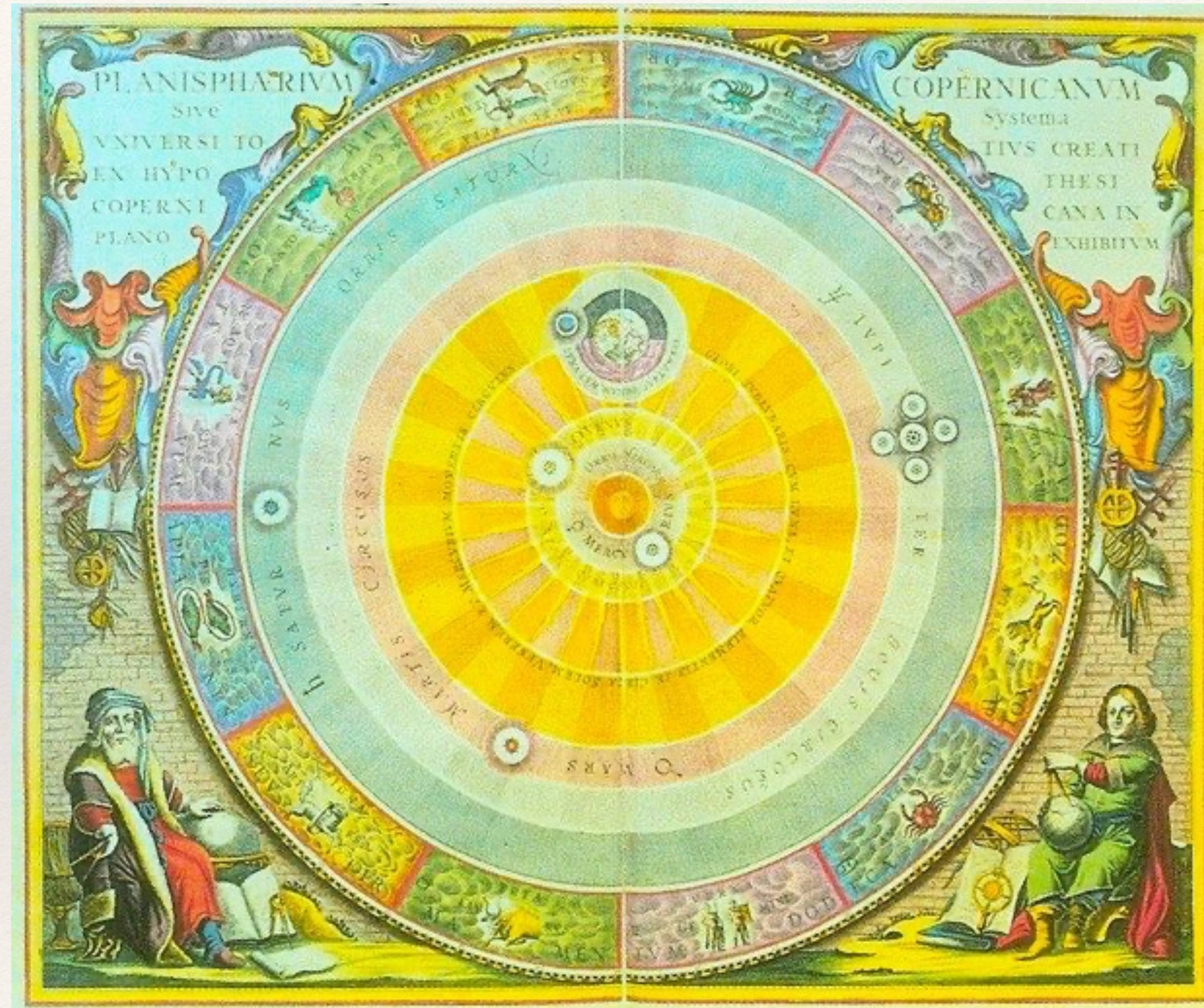
Impossible Probabilities

- One example comes from Oxford mathematical physicist Roger Penrose.
- He partnered with Stephen Hawking to write *The Nature of Space and Time*.
- His calculations show that to start the universe so it would have the required state of low entropy, the setting would have to be accurate to a precision of one part in ten to the power 10^{125} .
- If you were to put a zero on every particle in the universe, that would not be enough to do the job.

Total Solar Eclipse



Copernican Principle

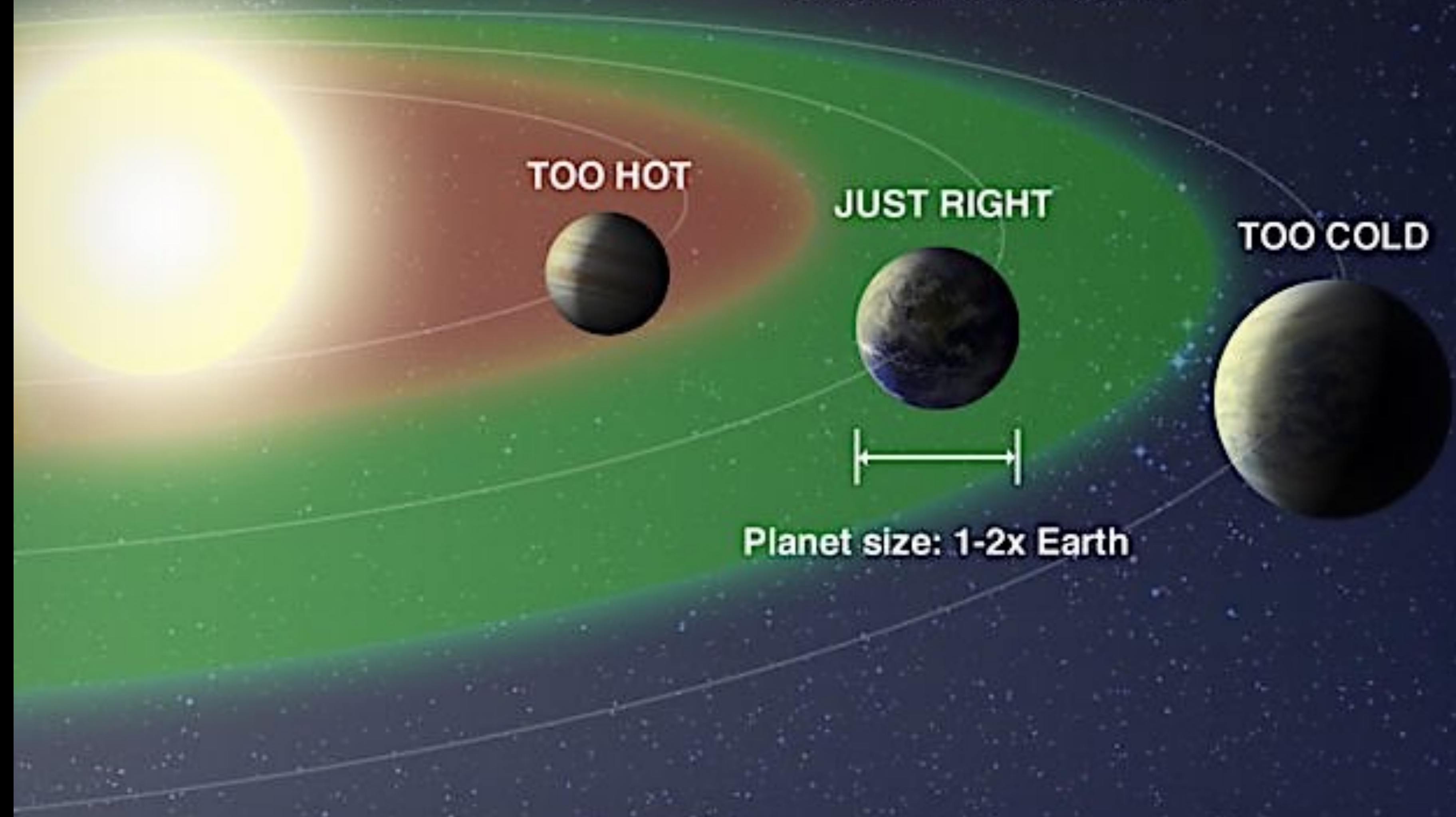


The Goldilocks Universe

- Sir Fred Hoyle in determining how the element carbon might have formed in stars discovered many fine-tuning parameters.
- Physicists discovered that many properties of the universe fall within extremely narrow and improbably ranges for life to exist.
- Sir John Polkinghorne asked students to imagine finding a “universe-creating machine” responsible for the fine-tuning of the universe.
- Stephen Meyer extended that by asking students what they would think if one dial click either way resulted in catastrophic consequences.



Habitable Zone



TOO HOT

JUST RIGHT

TOO COLD

Planet size: 1-2x Earth

The galactic habitable zone

“Similar to the Goldilocks zone but on a galactic scale”

Galactic habitable zone
In this region, rocky planets can form, but nearby supernovas are rare.

Danger zone
Too close to the galactic hub, life would be harmed by deadly rays from frequent stellar explosions.

Outer regions
Far from the galactic hub, galaxies lack the heavy elements needed for life-sustaining rocky planets.

Too cold
Too far out, and a planet's water supplies will remain deep-frozen, preventing the evolution of life.

Too hot
Too close to a star, and a planet's surface water and atmosphere boil away into space.

Just right
In the Goldilocks zone, a planet can sustain liquid oceans and a warm atmosphere.

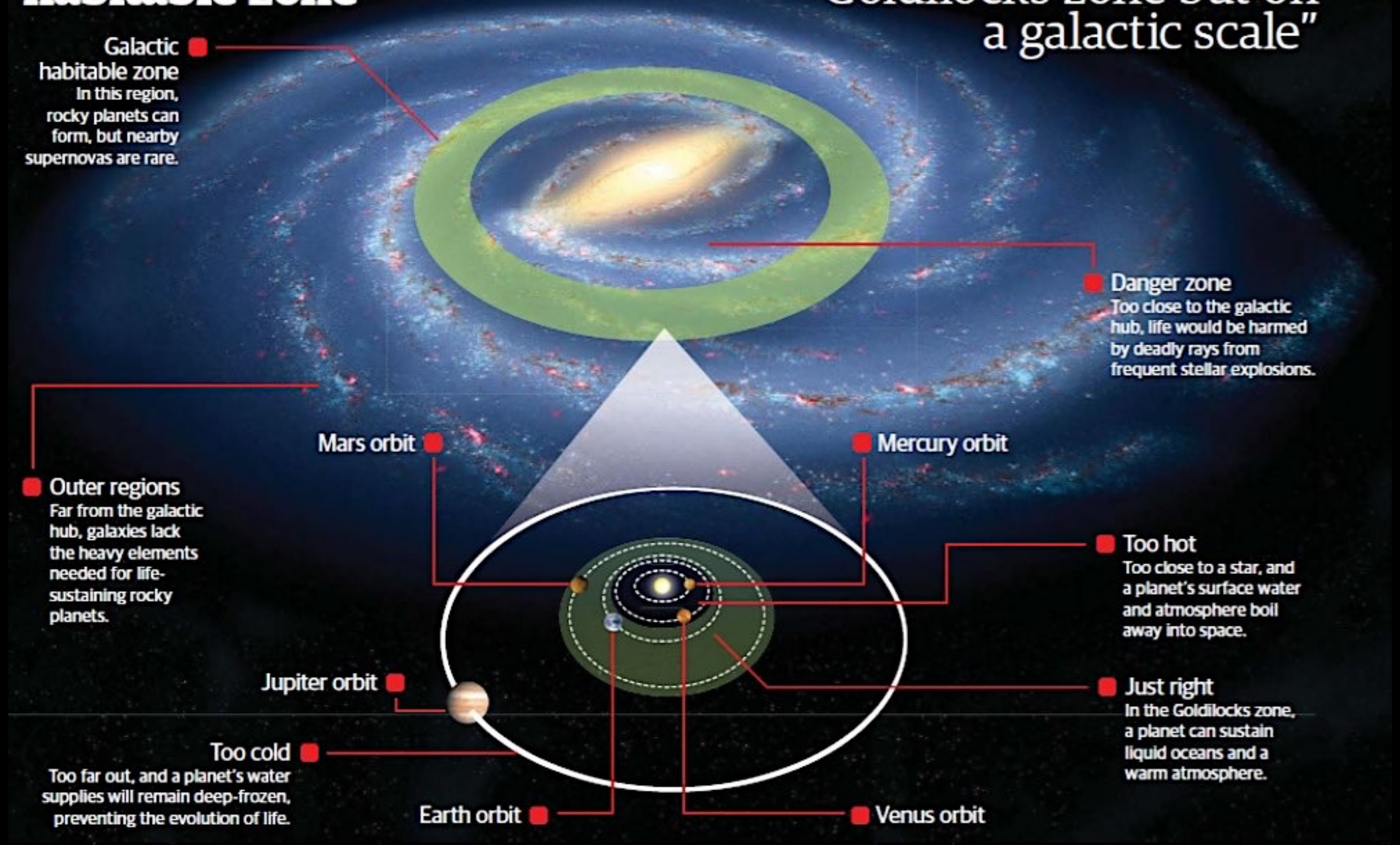
Mars orbit

Mercury orbit

Jupiter orbit

Earth orbit

Venus orbit





DNA Enigma

- Ever since Darwin, evolutionists have assumed that they could explain “design without a designer.”
- The discovery by James Watson and Francis Crick of the structure of DNA began to unravel the materialist understanding of life.
- The chemical subunits of DNA function just as letters in a written text of digital characteristics in computer software.
- In Stephen Meyer’s book, *Signature of the Cell*, he calculated the probability of the origin of even a single functional protein or functional gene.

DNA Design

- We know that we can convey information with a twenty-six-letter alphabet or even by two characters like zeros and ones used in binary code in computers.
- We now know that DNA stores information in the form of a four-character digital code. These code for amino acids that form a protein molecule.
- The order and structure are specified by the DNA code.
- DNA is like a library. Organisms access the information it needs from DNA so it can build some of the critical components.

DNA is like a Computer Program

*"DNA is like a computer program,
but far, far more advanced than any
software we've ever created."*

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