

The Light from the Stars: A Test Case

God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, (Gen 1:16-17)

An explosion of a giant star is called a supernova. The brightness of a supernova may be the equivalent of ten billion suns.¹ In 1987 Supernova 1987A occurred in a neighboring galaxy. Its image played out exactly as predicted by leading theories of astrophysics. Of course the explosion did not occur in 1987, the light from the explosion had travelled 100,000,000,000,000 miles over 169,000 years. How can young earth creationism account for this? According to them, the star never existed. What astronomers saw was really just the image of a supernova implanted in a beam of light on its way to earth. Yet for God to have designed this image of a supernova so that it played out precisely as was predicted by the theories of modern physics would be the height of deception. Supernova 1987A would be a fictional account of an historical event that never happened.²

1 "Supernovae," Hyperphysics****Astrophysics. n. p. [Cited 11 April, 2013].

Online: <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/astro/snoven.html>

2 Mark S. Whorton, *Perils in Paradise: Theology, Science, and the Age of the Earth* (Waynesboro GA: Authentic, 2005), 100-1.