

Just Like They Said It Would

Our family traveled to the “path of totality” to see the total solar eclipse. Being married to a retired science teacher and having a son who also teaches science made it special. Our son taped the explanation of the eclipse for his 6th grade science class. Standing on the shore of a large Tennessee lake, under a nearly cloudless sky, Dave explained in great detail how the eclipse would happen. He used an interactive model of the sun, moon and earth to demonstrate the position of each. A number of people gathered around to hear his explanation of the celestial phenomenon that we were about to experience.



Scientists said the total eclipse would happen at our vantage point at 1:29:44 PM. They were exact in their prediction. Many minutes later we talked on our cell phone to relatives positioned in South Carolina, further down the path of totality. It was neat to hear their excitement as to what we had already experienced, as the fullness of the eclipse reached them.

Thanks to scientists and mathematicians everything went on schedule. Over an hour and a half period of time the moon inched its way across the path of the sun. Just before 1:29:44 PM we experienced a 360 degree sunset, followed by the total disappearance of the sun. After a brief two minutes of darkness the spectacular “diamond ring” effect appeared as the climax of the show. Immediately the sun started reappearing on the other side of the moon.



It is amazing that mankind has been able to calculate everything perfectly, even with the moon’s orbit constantly changing. We even know when future eclipses will appear. We are already making plans for April 8, 2024, when the next total eclipse will happen in North America.

Now let’s put things in perspective. On August 21st we viewed a celestial event that only God could create. As humans we can only determine what and when it will happen, but are powerless to make it happen. God gave us a brain with reasoning powers and an inquisitive mind. What He didn’t give us, however, was the power to create.

God created all that we have, and he did it in a particular order. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:1-2).* God created water, dry ground and sky. He created vegetation to cover the earth. He created lights in the sky to give us a means to measure time. *God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness (Genesis 1:16-18).* Then, God created living creatures in the water and birds to fly in the sky.

Human beings weren’t even placed on the earth yet.

It wasn’t until the 6th day that God created man in his image. *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so we could have food. And it was so. (Genesis 1:30).*

Yes, this is *God’s* creation story. Mankind did not cause himself to come into being. We didn’t create the sun or moon or the stars in the sky. That is far too big of a task for even the greatest scientist. Through science, we can begin to understand the vastness and intricacies of God’s creation. The eclipse we saw was amazing. It was the inter-relationship of the earth where we live, with the two great lights God created for day and nighttime. He brought it all together for a brief moment in time. We can be entertained by special effect shows in a theatre or theme park, but this eclipse went from coast to coast, creating a display for our entire nation. It was a spectacular demonstration that we viewed with awe and wonder!

As you think back on the eclipse appreciate the universe that God has created. *“And it was so.”*

Prayer: Heavenly Father. At times we think we are the center of the universe, all powerful and in control. As we think back to the recent eclipse, let us be reminded of Your power to create all that we have. Amen.