

Fresh Start

By Jerry Bader

The Unchanging Moon

July 22, 2018

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

I have had a near lifelong fascination with the moon. It began at age five when I witnessed, on television, the splashdown of one of the Gemini space missions (based on research as an adult, I suspect it was Gemini 11 in September 1966). I had no idea what I was seeing. My mother explained that it was part of an effort to go to the moon. I was hooked from that second on. Until that moment, the moon to me was a light in the sky, not a destination. Three years later, I was excused from farm chores to watch the coverage of Neil Armstrong setting foot on the moon.

Twenty-five years, later my fascination with the moon was reignited. It came in the movie “Forrest Gump,” when the title character observes that the moon shining over the battlefields of Vietnam was exactly the same moon that shone over his home state of Alabama. The moon never changes. Oh, it goes through its monthly cycle; but it does so in the same way and it always looks the same to us. It may be the only completely unchanging element in our environment – 238,000 miles away, yet always right there.

I was reminded of that movie line when reading a devotional recently that made a similar observation about the moon’s unchanging nature. The writer wondered: did God put the moon there as a reminder of His own unchanging nature? Generation after generation has attempted to change God to fit its needs, wants and desires. Despite our efforts to change God and His Word, they are as unchangeable as the moon: *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”* Matthew 24:35

There are competing scientific theories as to how the moon came into earth’s orbit. One is that another body slammed into the earth and its remnants created the moon. Yet moon rocks brought back to earth show the moon appears to be made of the same substance as the planet on which we live. That would align with a long-discarded theory that the moon was ripped from a portion of the earth that is now the Pacific Ocean. But fixating on the “how” draws our attention from the “why.” Perhaps God gave us a visible reminder of His unchangeable nature.

Everything on earth, including us, changes. We are surrounded by chaos in the fallen world. War comes and goes, governments come and go. What is societally acceptable changes, seemingly by the moment. God is the constant. He never changes.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

And the one thing that doesn’t change in the visible world (that we can view safely) is in the sky above us, reminding the entire globe each night that He is there, unchanged, year after year, century after century, millennia after millennia. When you’re tempted to change God or his Word to fit your will, I would encourage you to look skyward each evening and look at His reminder in the sky: *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* Revelation 22:13. While scientists continue to search, likely in vain, for the “how,” of the moon, I encourage you to celebrate the nightly reminder He has given us by engaging in His unchanging nature in song, prayer and His Word.

“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” Malachi 3:6