



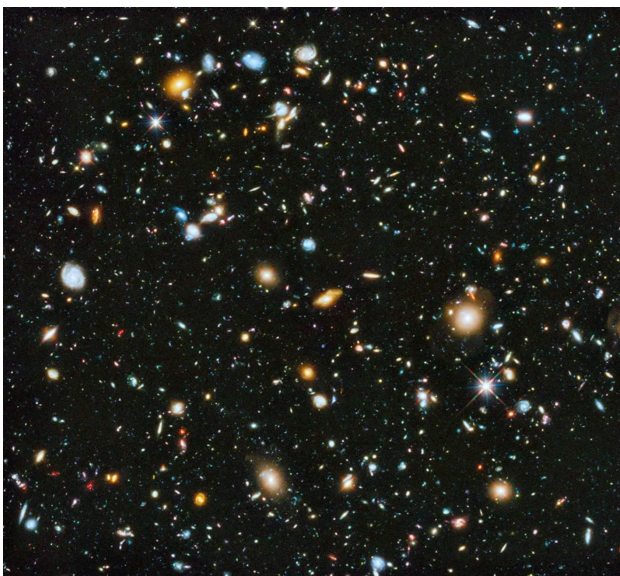
James C. Peterson

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# One Dot to Another

**I**t is clear that I am just one person out of eight billion people on our planet today. And that when one sees a picture of the earth passing before the sun, the earth appears as a barely visible dot. And for that matter, our massive and explosive sun that dwarfs our planet, is just one star out of 100 billion stars in our Milky Way Galaxy. There are twelve times as many stars in our galaxy as there are people on our planet, so in a picture of our galaxy as a whole, our mighty sun presents as just a dot too. And our Milky Way Galaxy as a whole is just one galaxy out of two trillion galaxies that we are aware of so far. So I am a dot, on a dot, circling but a dot, that is one dot out of 100 billion dots, that all combined together are just one dot out of two trillion dots.

It is a wonder that God knows our Milky Way galaxy exists, let alone our sun within it, and our



The Hubble Ultra Deep Field 2014 image is a composite of separate exposures taken by the telescope from 2002 to 2012.

NASA, ESA, H. Teplitz and M. Rafelski (IPAC/Caltech); A. Koekemoer (STScI), R. Windhorst (Arizona State University) and Z. Levay (STScI), <https://science.nasa.gov/mission/hubble/science/universe-uncovered/hubble-deep-fields/>.

planet revolving around that sun, and me on that planet. I am like one grain of sand on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach. Yet we are told that God knows my name, indeed how many hairs are on my head. I do not know the count of my hairs, granted such a count gets easier every passing year. God is not only the creator of seemingly infinite astronomical distances, but also of infinitesimal detail. God knows within me my thirty trillion cells, and the three billion base pairs of my personal DNA copied in a complete set, inside each of my nucleated cells.



Thanks to Gerd Altmann via Pixabay, <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/dna-analysis-research-3539309/>.

The one God, at once vast in distance and detail, remarkably not only knows that we exist, but also cares about us enough to be with us. Such is what we celebrate at Christmas, that God the Creator knows us and who we are, better than we know ourselves, and yet cares about us enough to come live among us. When we meet Jesus of Nazareth, born in Bethlehem, we meet God the Creator, face to face.

For this December issue, one dot to another, miniscule and treasured,

***Merry Christmas!***

**James C. Peterson**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## ASA 2024 Call for Abstracts

### ONE BODY, MANY GIFTS: THE DIVERSITY OF DIVINE AND HUMAN ENDEAVOR

Program Chairs Mike Beidler and Sy Garte invite you to participate in the 2024 ASA Annual Meeting on July 26–29, 2024, at The Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington, DC. Check our website frequently, [asa3.org](https://asa3.org), for meeting information updates.

The theme for ASA 2024 is “One Body, Many Gifts: The Diversity of Divine and Human Endeavor.” Participants will have the opportunity to learn and dialogue on multiple science and faith issues related to the concept of diversity. Diversity takes many forms: ethnicity, national origin, Christian denomination, gender, age group, scientific field, metaphysical paradigm, ecology, etc. The theme highlights the ASA’s broad tent and focuses on

1. interpreting and understanding diversity in all of its forms and scales—cosmic, terrestrial, social, genetic—and its implications for our lives as people of faith,
2. working together despite our differences and leveraging those differences to seek broader and wider influence within both the church and the scientific community to grow God’s kingdom, and
3. promoting a climate within our personal spheres of professional influence to increase access and development for groups underrepresented in the sciences.

Meeting registrants are invited to contribute oral or poster presentations along several parallel session tracks on a range of topics at the intersection of science and faith: physical sciences, life sciences, environmental sciences, social and psychological sciences, theological perspectives, and engineering and technology.

You may propose an abstract as either a *20-minute oral presentation* (plus 5-minute Q&A) on an important topic in the science-faith dialogue, or a *conference-style poster* for viewing and presentation. The poster should include scientific data and analysis as well as discussion about its theological significance.

The annual meeting’s planning committee will evaluate and review submitted abstracts for both technical and theological content as well as overall quality and applicability. Since accepted presentations must show an adequate understanding of both science and faith, we encourage you to collaborate with other science professionals and/or theologians in preparing your presentations.

Please remember not to speak outside your field of expertise, double-check your facts, consider multiple possible scientific and/or theological interpretations, and be appropriately tentative and humble in your conclusions.

Submit your abstract at <https://network.asa3.org/page/asa-2024-submit>.

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
**JANUARY 31, 2024**