

Gravity, a Mysterious Force

Gravity is the mysterious attraction which one material object has for another. The reason for this attraction is one of the hardest questions man can ask about God's world. Yet everyone has experienced the attraction between the earth and his body. When we speak of gravity we usually refer to the attraction of the earth for matter. However, the earth itself is attracted by the sun as well as the other planets of the solar system. In fact, every piece of matter attracts every other piece of matter in the universe.

Two books on a table are attracted to each other; but since the books do not contain much matter, the attraction is very, very small. The greater the amount of matter in the two objects, the greater is the attraction of gravity between them. Also the closer two objects are together, the greater is the gravitational pull. For example, you are attracted to the earth's surface with a force which you call your weight; but if you travel to a point about 4000 miles above the earth's surface, you would weigh only one-fourth as much as you do where you are.

The combined principles discussed above form the Law of *Universal Gravitation*. The effect of this law is very well understood mathematically, but the actual cause for gravity escapes man's efforts to investigate. The mystery of the reason for gravity is understood only by the Creator Himself.

The Bible and Gravity

Does the Bible have anything to say about gravity? Besides general references to heaviness and weight God did not choose to reveal much in His Word about this great natural mystery. The Bible does reveal that God is the origin of gravity. The first questions God put to Job suggest the challenge of gravity to our understanding. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof?" (Job 38:4,6).

In a very real way gravity provides the foundation and cornerstone of the earth. It is gravity that holds all things to the earth. Without gravity the least outward force on objects on the earth would send them sailing into space. Gravity makes the earth stay where it is. This is another way gravity provides the foundation of the earth. "He stretcheth