



In the little village in Derbyshire where I grew up, there were no street lights. If I had cause to go into the village or went to visit other family members in the nearby villages, I was always glad when there was a nice big moon shining in the sky. My bicycle did not usually have a light so it was quite scary going out in the dark when the moon was not shining. When I saw the occasional car approaching I had to get off my bike and step onto the grass verge until the car had passed. (Black bike not a nice pink one!)



One thing that used to fascinate me was why the moon did not fall down out of the sky. What an amazing God we have. He not only created the moon without any tools or materials, but made it so that it would be shining and giving us light for years and years and years; in addition to that, He found a way of making it stay up in the sky without falling down to the earth – How good is that!

When I look up at the sky the moon does not seem all that far away and appears to be closer than these large passenger aeroplanes that we see travelling across the sky. When I looked on the internet to see how far away it is from us I found that there is a distance of 238,855 miles between Earth and Moon. It is much larger than I thought and is about a quarter of the size of Earth. I suppose that makes it even more wonderful that it does not fall out of the sky!



Moon is the only satellite of Earth and takes around 29 days to orbit the earth. The first astronauts to orbit the moon in 1968, had instructions from NASA to '....do something appropriate' and in response to that they took turns at reading verses from the first chapter of Genesis telling how God created everything.

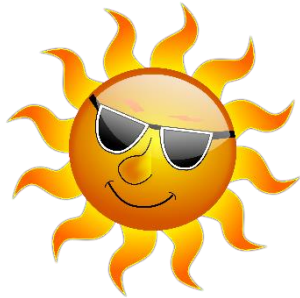
Verse 16 reads, 'God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night.....and set them in the heavens to give light upon the earth.' Sometimes we can be so used to seeing the sun and moon that we do not think about the wonder of how God created them. How did He think them up? How did He decide what size to make them? Even before any person was on the earth God was already providing light for our benefit today.

*'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'*  
(Genesis 1:1)



Six months after the initial orbits, man actually landed and walked on the moon. That epic journey took 4 days, 6 hours and 45 minutes. The average speed travelled was about 2,040 mph. I am not able to begin to imagine the initial stages of the journey when the rocket travelled at around 25,000 mph in order to be able to get out of the pull of the earth's gravity. I think I would definitely have needed some travel sickness pills!

The above details set me thinking not only about the creation of the moon, but also about how God enabled man to conceive the idea of getting there. Apparently there were 400.000 people working on this project. God provided people with the knowledge of how to work out the invention of the rockets etc., the equipment that would be needed, the knowledge of the cameras and all of the other minute details that were needed for such an undertaking. Strange to think that when He put the moon there in the first instance, God also knew the exact day when people would eventually be walking on its surface!



I was curious to know why the moon shines and read that in fact it does not shine at all. It is completely cold and is mostly dark grey in colour. The reason that it appears to shine is because it reflects a small portion of light from the sun; so the sun is shining all night as well as during the day – even if we do not see it very often!

I am reminded of passages in the bible where Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.” His light saves us from the darkness of sin and shines to show us the right path to take in our lives. We do not have to travel 238,855 miles to see the light that comes from the life of Jesus, we can see it anywhere at any time and commit our lives to follow Him. It does not take the invention of rockets or equipment, neither do we have to travel at phenomenal speeds but rather need to be still and consider the most amazing ‘Light’ that there has ever been.

In Hebrews 1:3 it speaks of Jesus reflecting the glory of God. Jesus Himself said on numerous occasions that He only spoke and did what His Father told Him to do. We can try to reflect both the light of Jesus and the glory of God as we live our lives to please Him.

***A PRAYER:*** *We thank You God for Your marvellous creation of the moon that provides light for us. We do not fully understand how You managed to create it in the first place or how it shines so brightly for us. We really appreciate the fact that You are never any distance from us as the moon is, but are always there for us. We thank You too that Jesus gives a far greater light to our lives and ask that You will help us to reflect that light of Jesus to others. Amen*