should not read too much into the Bible record which concentrates on events within Israel and Judah. Samaria had an Egyptian governor, Amon, in the days of King Ahab (1 Kings 22:25), and Pharaoh Necho appointed Jehoiakim to be king in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:4). The extent of Egyptian control of Israel and Judah is not spelled out in Kings and Chronicles because that was irrelevant to the moral theme of the Bible records.

I would also be happy to take J.D.A. to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and show him the Merneptah stela, and the little footnote at the bottom of the inscription which says ‘Israel is destroyed, her seed is no more’. Does he really think that if Merneptah had invaded Israel this is all he would have to say about it. I can assure you he would have wanted to get more mileage out of it than a tiny postscript at the bottom of his stela describing at great length his expulsion of the Libyans from Egypt. Merneptah was simply commenting on the conquest of Samaria by the Assyrians in 722 BC which provides another anchor point for a revised chronology.

Finally, a word about Sir Flinders Petrie. I am not dependent on him for authority but I would defend his reputation. Petrie was a brilliant scholar who pioneered modern archaeology. J.D.A.’s professors at Wheaton have apparently been knocking him but he is still highly regarded in archaeological circles. Many of his methods are still being followed.

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A creationist cosmology in a galactocentric universe

I appreciate John Harnett commenting on my galactocentric cosmic creation model. However, he errs in discussing the effects of the outer galactic shell. He thus misses one of the outstanding features of my model—light from the distant shell is gravitationally redshifted at all points interior to the shell and in particular becomes the 2.73 K Cosmic Blackbody Radiation (CBR) at our location near the universal Centre. So instead of the shell presenting an Olber’s paradox type of problem, as John claims, it actually accounts for the origin of the 2.73 K CBR as gravitationally redshifted light that everywhere interior to the shell produces blackbody cavity radiation and in particular the 2.73 K near the Centre.2

He also makes a big issue of the density of the outer shell being that of a galaxy. However, this is exactly the condition invoked for the outer shell that greatly strengthens my model in every way. That is, the outer shell is actually a distant shell of galaxies composed of just H. So instead of being weakened by this condition, my model is instead strongly affirmed.2

John also errs when he claims my model is much the same as the hot big bang model. It is impossible for this to be true because big bang’s fundamental premise is that the universe is governed by spacetime expansion and expansion redshifts. In contrast, in my model, Hubble redshifts are a combination of relativistic Doppler shifts due to the outward recession of the galaxies through space, plus gravitational redshifts due to the effects of the vacuum. So my model invokes conditions that are directly opposed to big bang’s spacetime expansion and expansion redshifts.2

I also differ with John concerning his view that God’s Word favours the stretching of space, which accords with galaxies being co-moving entities carried by the expansion. This is the picture required by the big bang model and by Russ Humphreys’ and Carmeli’s models. As John recognizes, in my cosmic model space is not expanding; instead, galaxies are physically receding from the nearby Centre. I believe this concept equally well fits the biblical description of the stretching out of the heavens.

All the above, and much more,