How to Reassure Worried Astrophysicists

Editorial Comment by Warren, Krug

Planetary scientists looking for life in space are putting their hopes on a new space telescope to be launched in 2018. The James Webb Space Telescope will have the ability to look for chemical signatures of life in the atmospheres of other planets.

"We can't really tell what life is," admitted Sara Seager, an astrophysicist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in an online article published on Yahoo News. "All we can do is work with what life does. Life metabolizes and generates gasses, so that's what we're looking for ... The good news is, whatever life is, as long as it uses chemistry, we're all set. I think it's fair to say that we just want to see one example. If we see one, we almost know that it's everywhere because we need to be reassured, we need confidence that life is actually ubiquitous."

So, what is it about which scientists like Sara Seeger need to be reassured? Presumably, they want some confidence that nature can create life. As long as life is confined to one planet, Earth, then that supports the truth that all life begins with God, as Genesis declares.

Not surprisingly, scientists have been totally helpless in creating life in their labs. Yet, they want us to believe that blind nature has done it, perhaps countless times in space. That idea is not logical.

There is not even a hint in the Bible of God putting life on any other planet, although I suppose we can't categorically rule out the possibility.

Still, we must recognize that all life comes from our living Creator God, who has not only given us our earthly lives but is offering us eternal life in heaven.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10b). And the "they" includes also scientists.

So, researchers like Ms. Seager can be reassured that God loves them enough to have sent Jesus to earth to die for their sins. Scripture assures us heavenly life truly does exist and is freely offered to everyone through faith.

Warren Krug, a retired teacher, is the editor of the LSI Journal. He holds a B.S. in Education from Concordia University Chicago and a M.S. in Education from Oklahoma State University. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran, Caledonia, Wisconsin.