Bible Reading: Ephesians 5: 22-33 (p. 1176)

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility; test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.

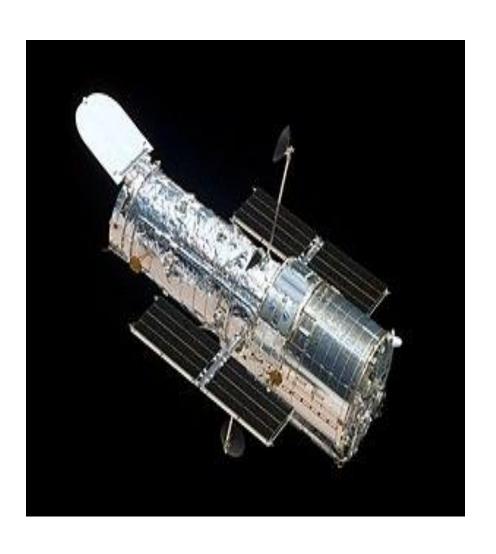
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.

Words of power that can never fail—let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us—
truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your church is built and the earth is filled with your glory.

[&]quot;Speak, O Lord"
Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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13.2m long & 4.2m in diameter

Weighs 11.2 tonnes

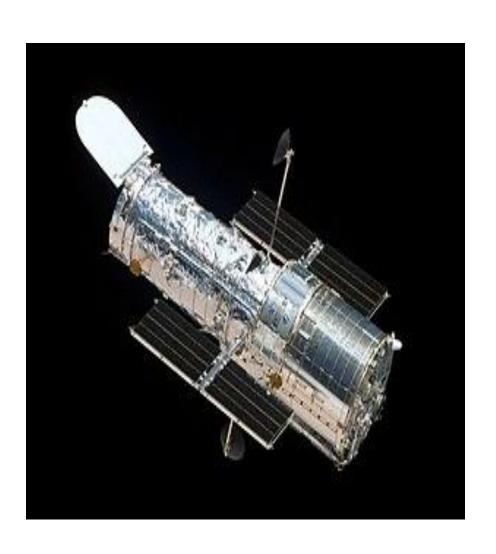
Travels at 17,000 mph

Orbits the earth every 95 minutes





The Hubble Telescope



Launched in 1990

Service Life ?????

Power use: 2.2kW

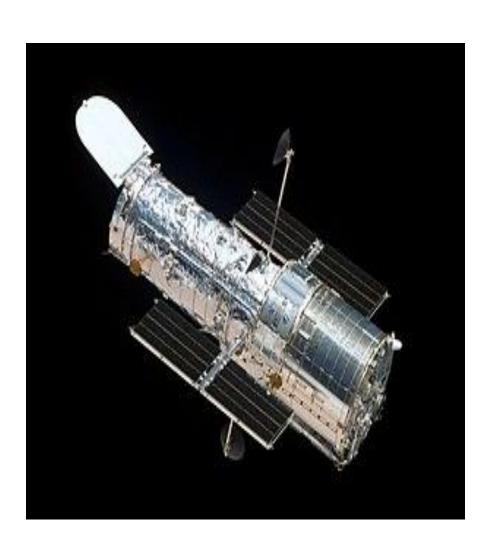
Sends 120 gigabytes of info to NASA every week = 1km length of books on a shelf







The Hubble Telescope



has enabled us to see things which we never saw before

has helped to see more widely, more deeply, more clearly

has changed our ideas about the universe

The Bible is God's Telescope

Tells us exactly what we need to know

About the past, present and future

Does not tell us things that we do not need to know

Corrects our wrong thoughts

Reveals to us the God who made and sustains everything

The Bible is God's Telescope but unlike Hubble

Tells us exactly what we need to know

About the past, present and future

Does not tell us things that we do not need to know

Corrects our wrong thoughts about everything that matters Reveals to us the God who made and sustains everything

eg The Church of Jesus Christ





eg The Church of Jesus Christ





We are encouraged to ask questions:

- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?

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- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?

Who is the Church?

Ephesians 5:22-33 (p.1176)

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'This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church' (v. 32)

Ephesians 5:22-33 (p.1176)

Marriage is a flawed but helpful picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and his church

Romans 5: 6-8 (p.1132)

Romans 5: 6-8 (p.1132)

Jesus Christ did not love the Church because she was beautiful — actually the complete opposite

Ezekiel 16:4-6 (p.841)

Ezekiel 16:4-6 (p.841)

Despised, rejected, unwashed and filthy, abandoned.

'I saidLIVE'

Isaiah 53:1-6 (p.740)

Isaiah 53:1-6 (p.740)

A prophesy of One who would be despised, rejected and suffer instead of us

Mark 8:31 (p.1012)

Mark 8:31 (p.1012)

Jesus Christ came to fulfil the prophesy

Acts 20:21 (p.1117)

Acts 20:21 (p.1117)

The evidence of Jesus Christ's saving work in us...repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ

Who is the Church of Jesus Christ?

The church of Jesus Christ is that body of people of which Christ is the Head because of his undeserved and loving saving work for them by his life, death, resurrection and intercession.

They show that they belong to Jesus Christ by lives which have turned from God-opposition to God-obedience trusting Jesus as their only Saviour and Lord.

They are being changed by, and in cooperation with, God's grace day by day into people who are holy, a radiant bride fit for, and delighted in, her husband, Jesus Christ, for ever.

What an astonishing and wonderful thing God has done and is doing!

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Don't be side-tracked and blinded by the world's non-Bible ideas of church.

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Don't be side-tracked and blinded by the world's non-Bible ideas of church.

Are you one of these people? Come!

577 The Church's One Foundation

Scripture References:

V.1 = Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 1 Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:20, Eph. 5:26-27

V. 2 = Eph. 4:4-6

V. 3 = Rev. 6:10