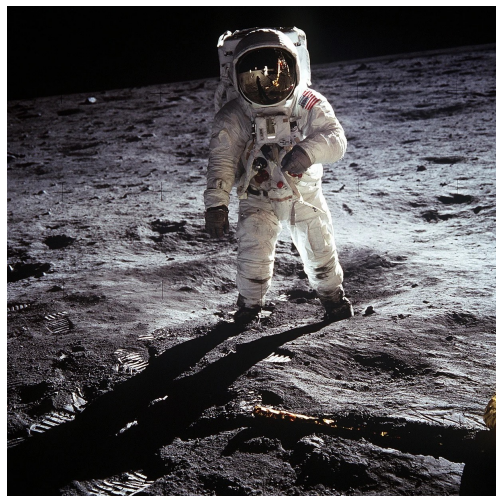


21st July

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life... Revelation 22:1,2a.

Something to read from space history

At 2:56:15 AM (GMT) on 21st July, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon. You can see him reflected in the visor of his fellow astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, as he takes the photo. You can see also the astronauts' footprints in the dust, the first ever footprints on the surface of the moon.

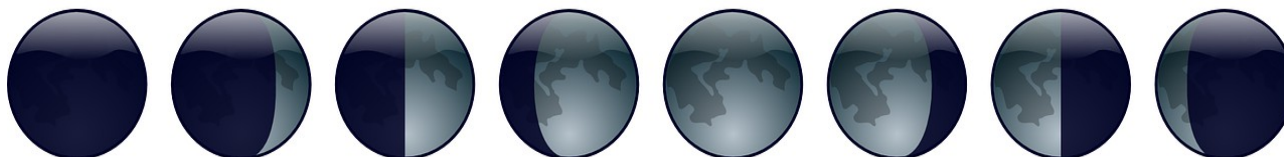


The astronauts had separated the landing craft, *Eagle*, from the main craft while they were behind the moon and so out of all contact with their base on earth. Once they were back in view, preparations for the landing could begin. As the landing craft descended, Armstrong had to take over control of the landing craft manually as it was heading for an area he could see was covered with boulders. This would be unsuitable for a landing. All this time they were in audio contact with the mission control in Houston, but the mission controllers could not see them. The camera on board was taking film which would only be seen after it arrived safely back on earth and could be developed.

“The *Eagle* has landed,” said Aldrin and began describing the landscape of the moon to the listening earth. Armstrong gave a more detailed description and Aldrin, having asked listeners to “give thanks in their own way.” held a short, unbroadcast, communion service. He also read John 15:5, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing,” but this also was not broadcast.

The astronauts then put on their helmets and gloves and opened the valves that vented the *Eagle's* cabin. Then they opened the hatch and, with Armstrong in front, began to get down onto the surface of the moon. On the way they turned on a black and white TV camera mounted outside the *Eagle* so that the watching world could see the event. “I’m going to step off the L[unar] M[odule] now,” said Armstrong and stepping down he added the famous words, “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Altogether there were six manned moon landings and twelve different astronauts stepped onto the moon surface. Astronaut, James Irwin, who was the eighth person to walk on the moon said: “It is more important that Jesus Christ walked on the earth than [that] man walked on the moon.”¹



The Moon's phases all have special names:

New
Moon

Waxing
Crescent

First
Quarter

Waxing
Gibbous

Full
Moon

Waning
Gibbous

Third
Quarter

Waning
Crescent

¹ <https://creation.com/apollo-moon-landing-50th-anniversary> has more about the moon landing.

The moon was created, along with the sun and the stars, on the fourth day of creation. That's after God had created the light. If that seems strange, remember that in the Heavenly Jerusalem we are told there is, “no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” Revelation 21:23. Before the sun, moon and stars were created then, God was the source of light on the earth. Unbelieving scientists had three different theories for the origin of the moon and they hoped that the rocks brought back from the moon by the Apollo 11 mission would help decide which was the correct one. Extensive tests revealed that none of the theories were helped by the moon rocks.² Everything we *know* about the moon – as opposed to what theories might be based on that knowledge – is consistent with it having been created by God on the fourth day of creation some six thousand years ago.

The names of the moon's phases are listed on the previous page. They are easy to tell apart when you look at the moon in the sky. Because the moon is always moving on ahead in its orbit while the Earth rotates it will have moved about 13 degrees since it last rose. The earth takes about an hour to catch up with the Moon's new location. This makes the moon rise above the horizon about 50 minutes later each day.³

Quite a lot of the landscape of the moon can be seen with the naked eye – although since one side of the moon is always facing away from the earth we can only see one side of it. The features on the moon that look like dark areas are called “seas” or in Latin *Maria*. They are not really seas, although early astronomers thought they were. The other obvious features are craters. These were caused when meteors hit the moon's surface. We learned about meteors in the lesson on June 30th. The moon has almost no atmosphere so the meteors did not burn up as they came down as they usually do when they hit the earth. Scientists who believe the Bible think that the many small craters were probably formed very early, maybe right after the fall. The large impacts that made the basins and “seas” were probably made at the time of the flood, probably by comets or pieces of a large comet. This is why the highlands of the moon have a lot of evenly spaced craters while the seas have almost none. We learned about eclipses in the lesson on 4th June. The relative sizes of the moon, sun and earth as well as their distance from each other has been carefully designed so that the total eclipse of the sun is an awe-inspiring event.⁴

Something to think about

The rise and dominance of evolutionary theory has led many Christians to distrust the findings of “science” altogether. For with science in such a disreputable state it is hard to stop people wondering; if they have been lied to in one area of science, why not in another? The word of trustworthy scientists would have stopped such things in their tracks in the past but now things are different. People who want notoriety and also some who are laughing up their sleeves at gullible Christians are making the most of this and there are non-Christian organisations and individuals pushing the idea that the moon landings were all a hoax mocked up in a studio! Some seem to be deliberately putting things out that anyone with a bit of real scientific understanding can see through and then watching with glee while earnest Christians (especially home educators) fall for the bait. In reality these claims are appeals to emotion and personal belief rather than being based in science – just like evolution. They can be categorically denied on the basis of good, objective science. Reputable Christian creation science organisations⁵ are the best places to go to for refutation of these ideas if you come across them. Christians need to sound a clarion note on this issue: we *can* know the truth! We should not trust our emotions or even *our* beliefs but *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.* (I Thessalonians 5:21)

2 Read <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/moon/latest-lunar-hypothesis-on-the-rocks> for more information.

3 You can find the times of moonrise here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/uk/london>.

4 There is an interesting experiment you can do here to simulate how the moon's craters were made: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=774JrneQ-zU&feature=emb_logo.

5 Here, for instance, <https://creation.com/arguments-we-think-creationists-should-not-use#moonhoax>

Something to sing

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) wrote over 200 beautiful songs which are still sung today. He wrote at least four songs called “To the Moon”. The one with catalogue no. D. 259 is quite simple and would be good to learn. I have put the score in the Optional Resources files for today and also an audio file to help you.

The song is easy to learn. Start with the first two lines only. They are simple and have some repeated notes⁶ which always helps!

See, the moon, that gives us light,
Rise in silver splendour.

Listen and sing until you have it right. When you are happy go on to the next two lines:

Show-ing forth her radiance bright,
Clouds their homage render.

The first of these two lines has the same tune as the first line you learned except for the last note of the line (bright) which flashes up high like a beam of light. Listen over and over until you get it right. When you have these four lines you can already sing most of the song.

Next comes a pair of lines which both start and finish the same but with a tiny difference in the middle. The starting note (Day's) is just one step higher than the last note of the previous line (-der) so it is easy to find. Again there are some helpful repeated notes. Practice them.

Day's bright light shall fade away,
Shadows creep across the bay,

The next line contains a sequence which makes it easy. A sequence is just the same tune repeated a little higher or (in this case) lower.

While we rest and
take our ease,

the last line has a jump up at the beginning and then drifts down to the end.

She will shine in peace.

Something to read from History

The Battle of Shrewsbury took place on the 21st July 1403, one of the most terrible conflicts ever to take place on British soil. The story of the battle and the background to it can be found in today's optional resources files.



⁶ I have marked the repeated notes out with coloured type – it might help.