



Growing Up
Luke 2:39-52



Pillars of Creation

This image shows the pillars as seen in visible light, capturing the multi-coloured glow of gas clouds, wispy tendrils of dark cosmic dust, and the rust-coloured elephants' trunks of the nebula's famous pillars.



A rose made of galaxies

This image of a pair of interacting galaxies called Arp 273.



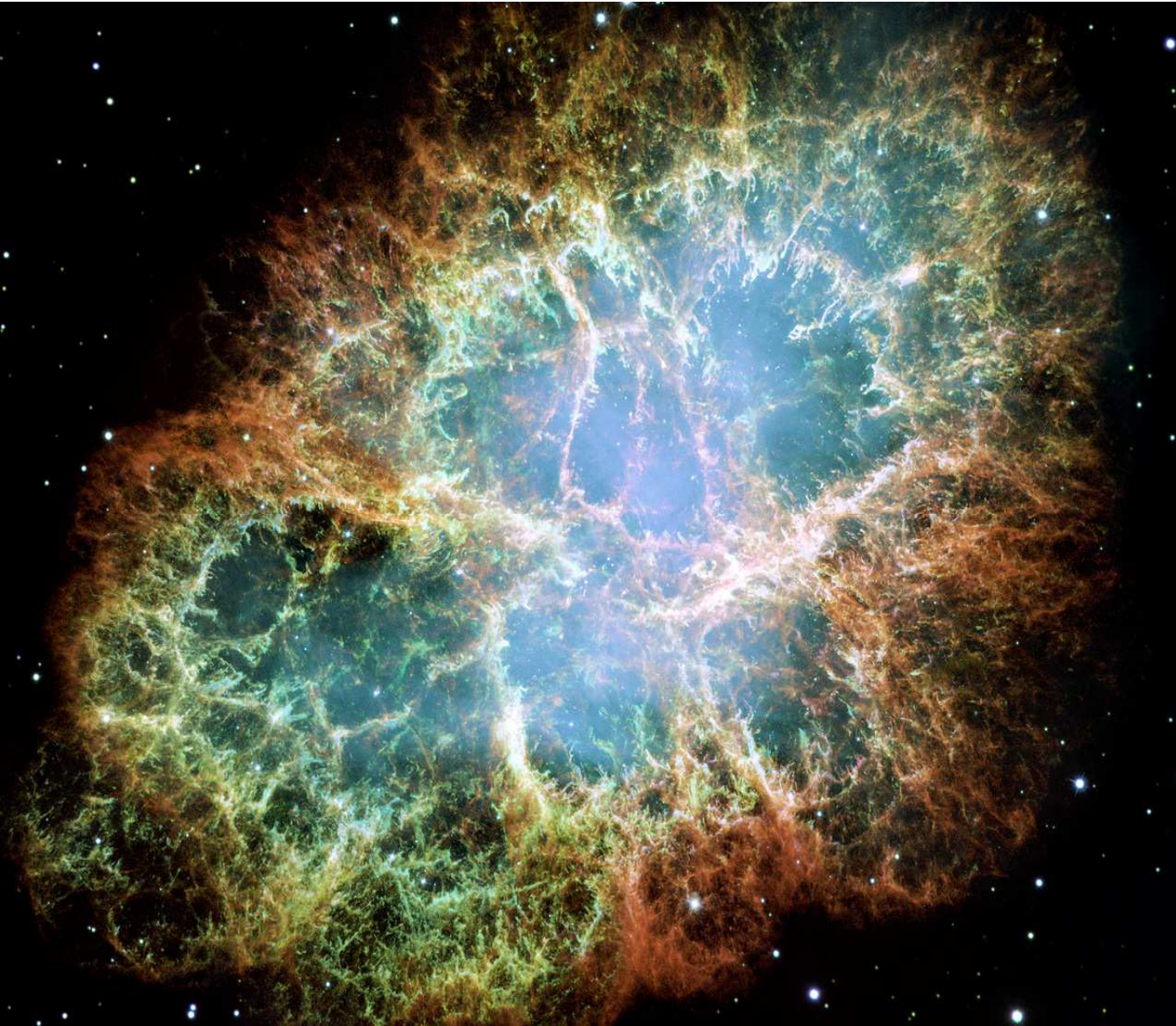
Antennae Galaxies

The galaxies — also known as NGC 4038 and NGC 4039 — are locked in a deadly embrace. Once normal, sedate spiral galaxies like the Milky Way, the pair have spent the past millennia sparring with one another.



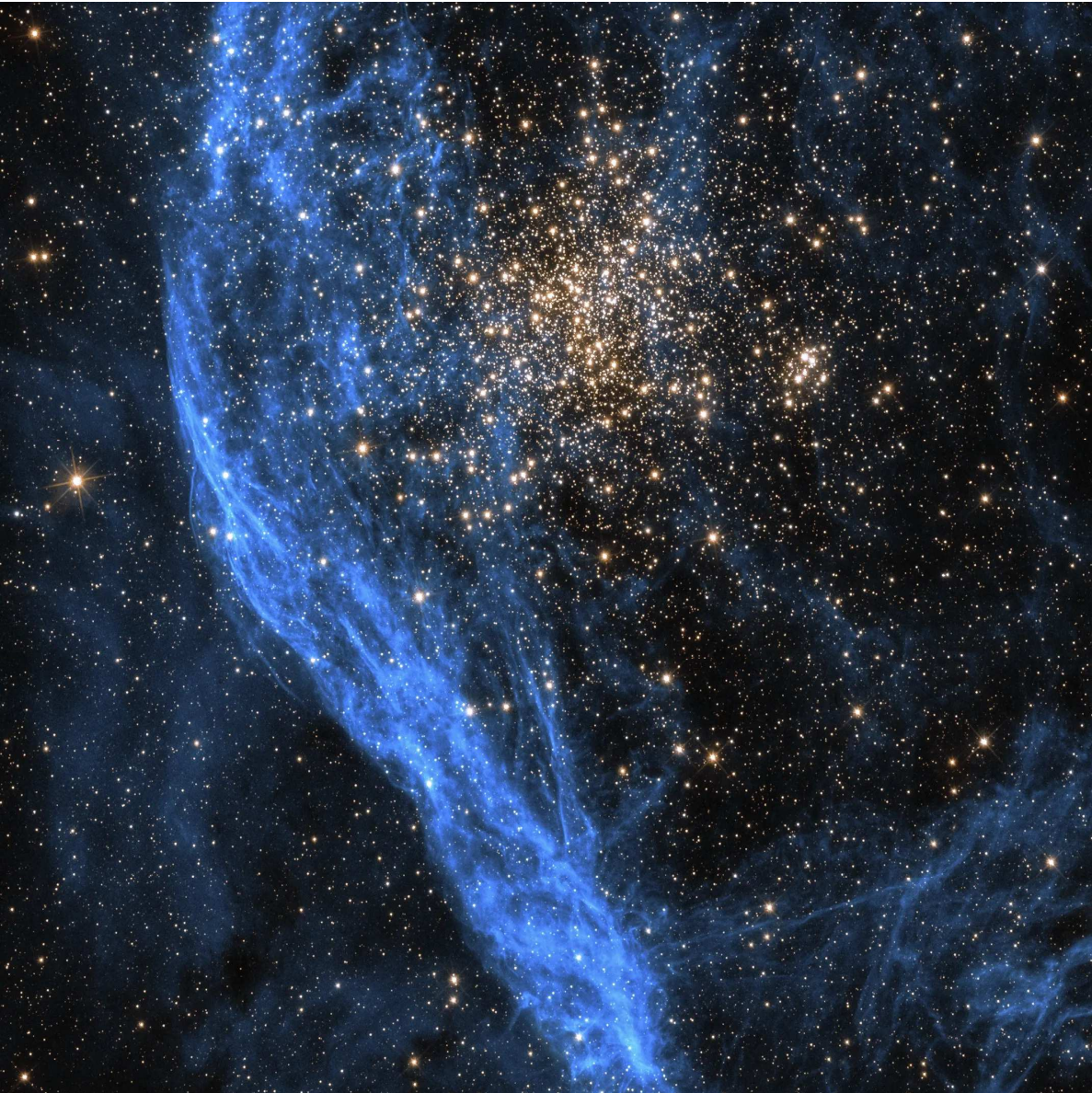
Hubble Ultra Deep Field is filled with galaxies

Galaxies, galaxies everywhere – as far as the Hubble Space Telescope can see. This is a view of nearly 10,000 galaxies. The snapshot includes galaxies of various ages, sizes, shapes, and colors.



Psalm 19:1-2 NIV

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge



Psalm 8:3-4 ESV

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Growing Up

- **Philippians 2:6-7 NIV**, 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
 - **TLB**, 6 who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, 7 but laid aside his mighty power and glory (*temporarily*), taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men.
 - This was decided in the heavenlies but transpired in the physical
 - Ponder this for a minute

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- We saw the culmination of this decision with a baby born and laid in a manger because there was no room for Him in this world He created
 - Was Jesus ready to walk this earth as Messiah?
 - He had to grow up, mature, and we have just a snippet shown to us in Scripture

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- **Luke 2:39-40 NIV**, 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
 - Jesus had to grow up and become strong physically and spiritually – like you and I
 - Jesus needed to be filled with wisdom
 - This describes a continuous, progressive growth in understanding and insight, not just static knowledge

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- **Luke 2:39-40 NIV**, 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
 - Wisdom here means spiritual understanding and discernment, not just cleverness
 - This is the call upon the lives of every born-again child of God

Growing Up

- **Luke 2:39-40 NIV**, 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
- Where will Jesus get the knowledge that will lead to wisdom?
 - Some is gained by experiencing human life
 - **Hebrews 5:8 NIV**, “Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered”

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- Where will Jesus get the knowledge that will lead to wisdom
 - Mostly, through Scripture
 - Some through formal training in the Synagogues
 - **Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NIV**, 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

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- Jesus developed an appetite for the Scripture and understanding of them that consumed Him as God's favor rested upon Him
 - God's favor will rest on everyone whose life is consumed with knowing and understanding Scripture

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- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

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- This is not as worrisome as we think today
 - Children were allowed to roam Jerusalem, temple and marketplace on their own somewhat watched by the older children
 - Jesus wasn't lost in the wilderness but lingered at the religious center and probably with extended family knowing they would come back for Him

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- Jesus was on the cusp of being considered an adult at 13
 - The men and older boys walked in front of the caravan while the women and younger children were at the rear, Jesus could have been in either

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- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.
 - Greek word for amazed - to be astonished or astounded describing a profound state of awe at Jesus' exceptional wisdom and understanding
 - What were the teachers astonished at?
 - The way Jesus understood the depth of their teaching and asking questions far beyond what would be considered normal

Growing Up

- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.
 - Jesus was hungry for the Word of the Lord
 - Hearing their depth of teaching was not possible in Nazareth or even Galilee
 - You would think they would have kept up with Jesus as He grew older
 - Being from Nazareth, they paid little attention to Him

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- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV, 48** When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”
 - Mary and Joseph had nervously looked everywhere for Jesus but why were they astonished?
 - Finding their 12-year-old son sitting among the religious teachers discussing scripture with profound wisdom
 - Not a normal place you have looked for a 12-year-old boy

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- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”
 - Can you see Jesus soaking up the religious leader's knowledge
 - Asking questions for clarity
 - Asking questions to dive deeper into the spiritual truths taught, some probably didn't have an answer for
 - Jesus was learning about Himself
 - Answering the “Who am I question” or “What am I to do with my life?”

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- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.
 - Jesus really didn’t answer their question
 - They asked why did you do this to us and stay behind?
 - I don’t think this was Jesus being rebellious but rather He was so consumed with the Scriptural teaching found in Jerusalem He simply lost track of time and place
 - Remember Jesus was a 12 years old Jewish human boy knowing He was different but not knowing why

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- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.
 - Jesus answered the question, “Why did you look everywhere else before coming to the My Father’s House?”
 - I wonder if this was the first time Jesus really began to grasp who He was
 - I wonder if the reality of being God’s Son was blooming in His heart and mind

Notice Jesus beginning to grasp of who He was

- “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”
 - Jesus’ circumcision was the first of His blood shed for our sins
 - These are the first spoken words of Jesus found in Scripture
- “I must be in my Father’s house,” speaks of Jesus’ calling
 - “my Father’s house” speaks of Jesus’ unique relationship to God the Father
 - This was a temporary unveiling of Jesus’ relationship with his Father, a momentary glimpse through a curtain into a private room

Notice Jesus beginning to grasp of who He was

- Mary and Joseph didn't have a clue what Jesus meant
 - They are no different than any other parents who are mystified at times with their children coming into their own
 - They knew Jesus was born to be a Savior, Messiah, and Lord but "Son of God?"
- This was a transitional time for Jesus and His parents
 - He was growing into "God in the flesh"
 - This was a time where Jesus would stop being their baby and start transforming into the Son of God

Notice Jesus beginning to grasp of who He was

- My prayer for every born-again child of God is that we know who they are in Christ Jesus, that we spend time like Mary pondering...
 - What God has done for us in Salvation
 - What God has promised to us
 - We begin to see ourselves as not just forgiven, but as dearly loved adopted sons and daughters of God
 - Joint heirs with all Jesus Christ will inherit from God
 - Every time we enter this sanctuary, we know this is our Father's House and I belong

Even though Jesus knew who He was, there was much more growth needed before He was ready to step out of the manger and into Messiahship

- There may be times in the life of His children where God will give us a glimpse of where He is taking us...but not yet
- **Luke 2:41-52 NIV**, 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured (*pondered*) all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew (*matured*) in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.
 - The verses show Jesus experiencing normal growth—physically, mentally, and spiritually—under His parents' care, a common Jewish upbringing

Even though Jesus knew who He was, there was much more growth needed before He was ready to step out of the manger and into Messiahship

- His submission to Mary and Joseph underscores His integration into Jewish family life and adherence to religious law
 - These verses show a devout Jewish boy growing into maturity, demonstrating perfect obedience and wisdom within the framework of Jewish life, even as He uniquely embodied God's favor

Even though Jesus knew who He was, there was much more growth needed before He was ready to step out of the manager and into Messiahship

- Jesus continued to grow spiritually, live out His spiritual life physically, and waited patiently until the timing when God the Father sent the herald we know as John the Baptist
 - Be patient, God is not done with you yet

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- Jesus grew up human in every way, even birth
- He understands every human emotion
- He understands our every need
- He understands our weaknesses
 - **Matthew 26:41 NIV**, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

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- He knows how to lead you to abundant life, not just existence
 - **John 10:10 NIV**, 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”
 - **Matthew 4:19 ESV**, 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make...”

Growing Up

- Karoline Lewis reminds us that Christmas is a time for reflection. However, with the coming of the New Year it is so easy to get swept up in the busyness and the anxieties in front of us. She suggests,

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- “Before you go on, before you fill your mind with what is to come, steal a couple of extra moments in the temple, watching, expressly when Jesus isn’t looking, isn’t aware that you are there. [Watch him as he discusses Torah with the rabbis.] Sit beside the manger for a few more minutes, maybe holding a piece of hay or two in your fingers, wondering. [Go to the temple and listen to the startling words of Simeon, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also).” Ponder these things in your heart]. Keep company with Mary and Joseph, just a little longer.”
 - Ponder Jesus



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