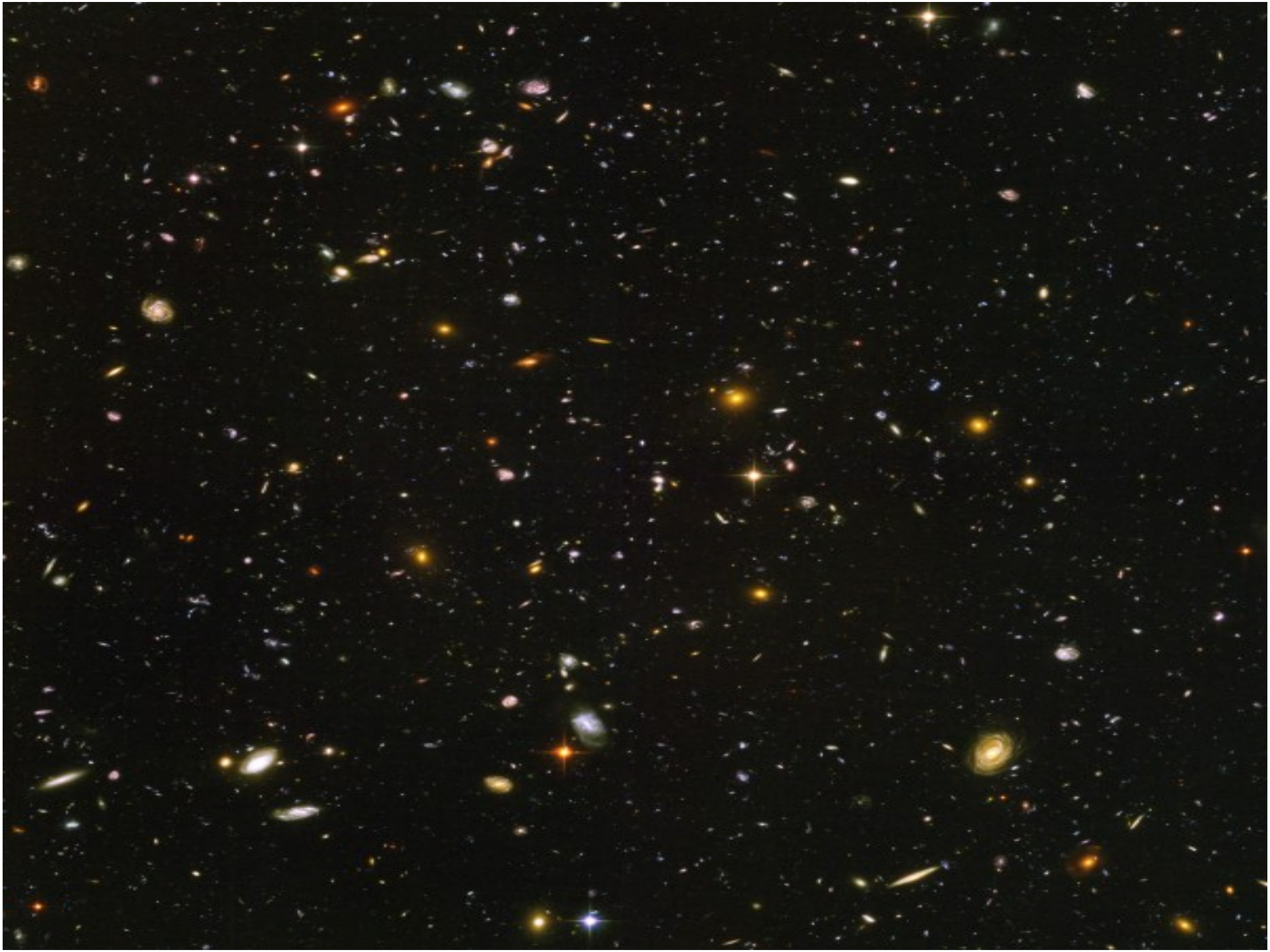
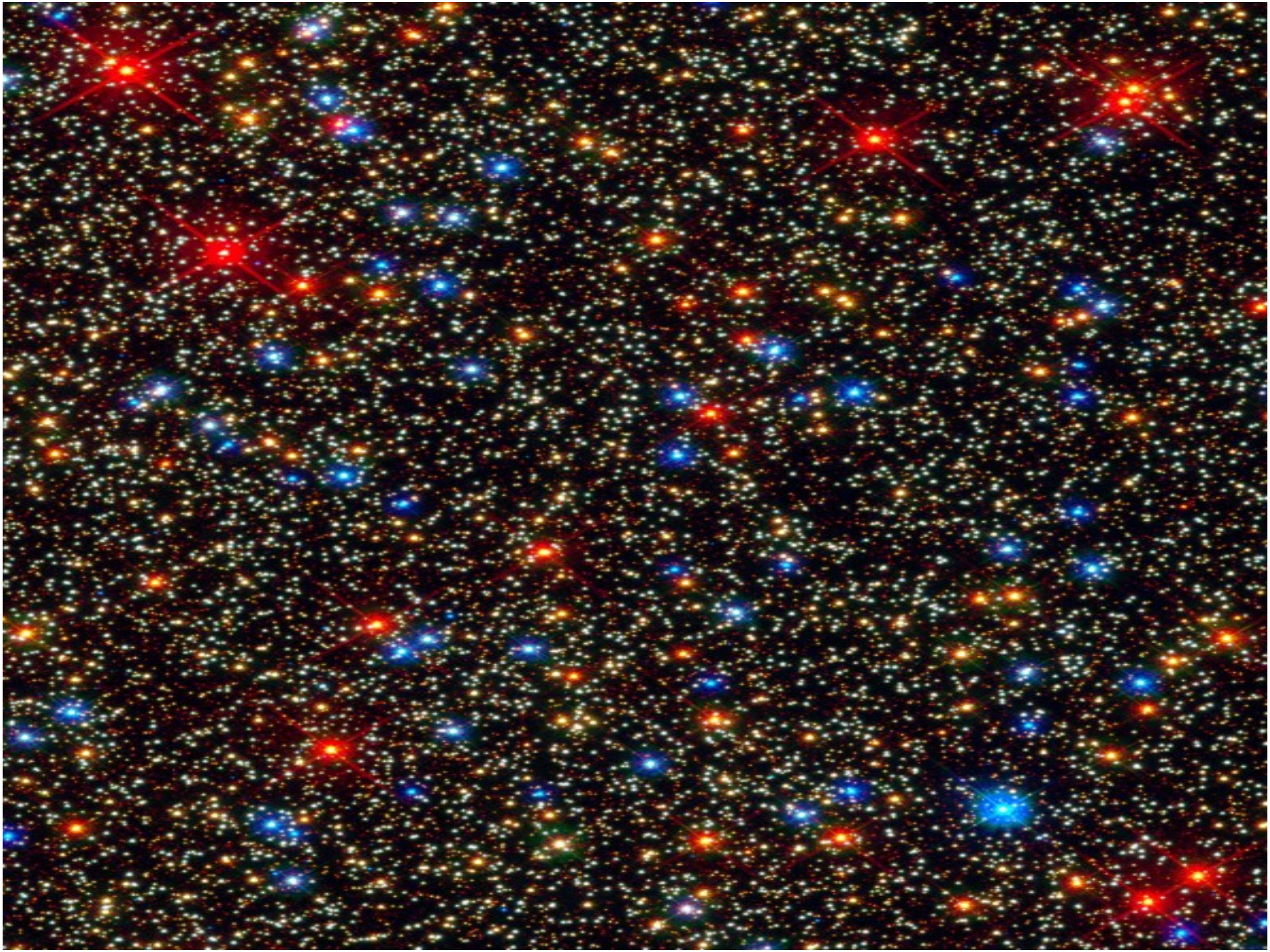
And God Said…

A very brief introduction to creation

And God said…

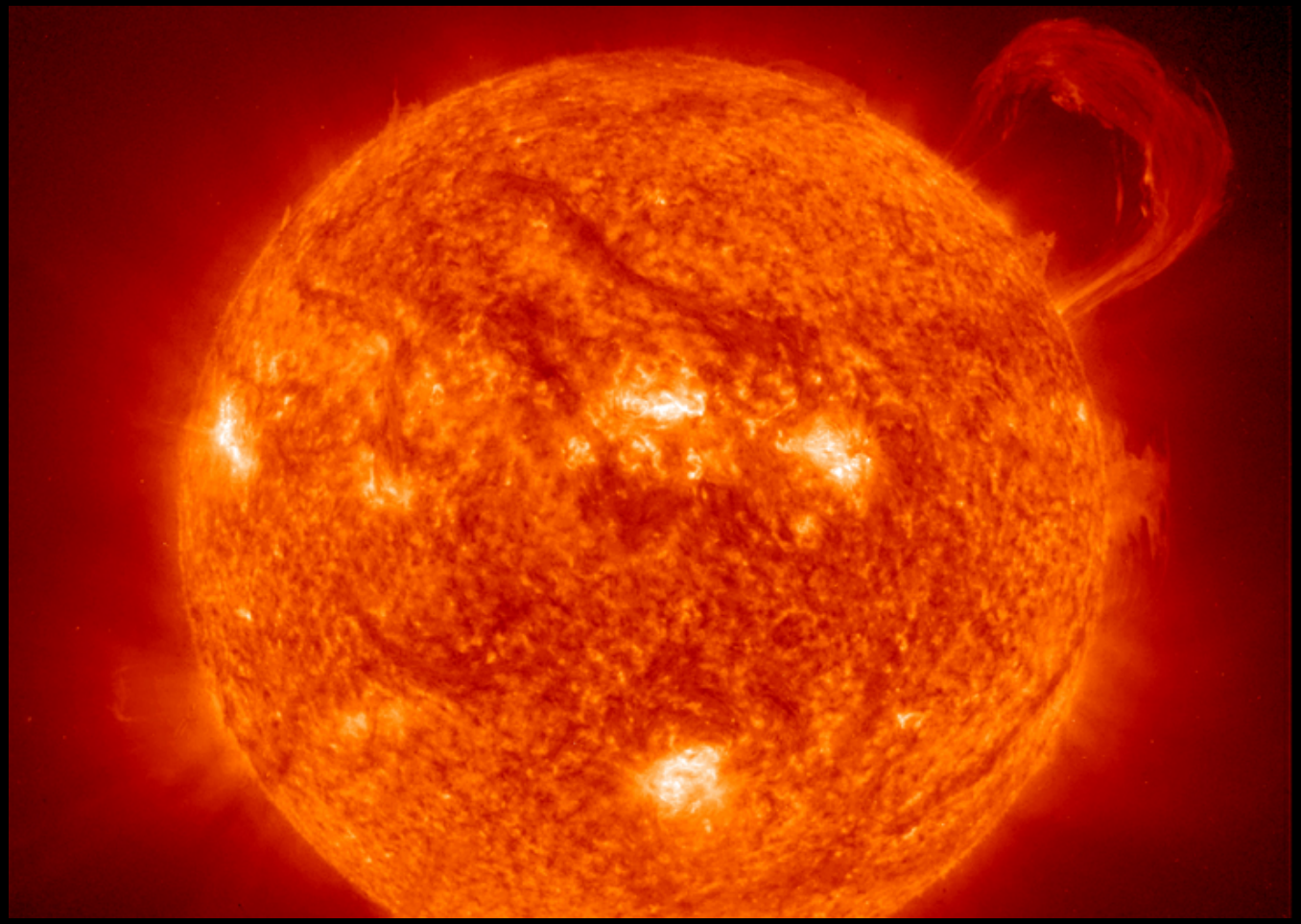
“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1





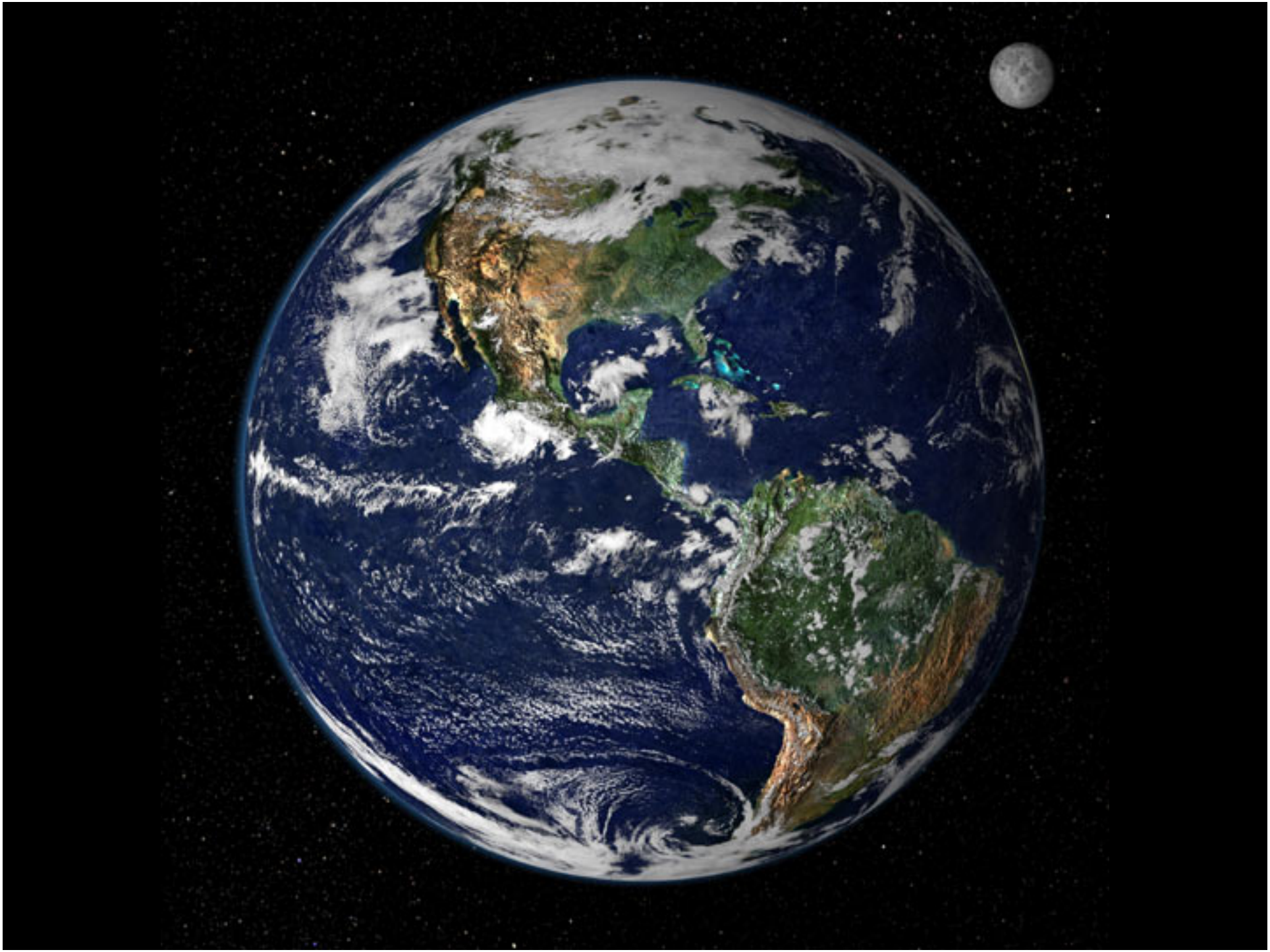


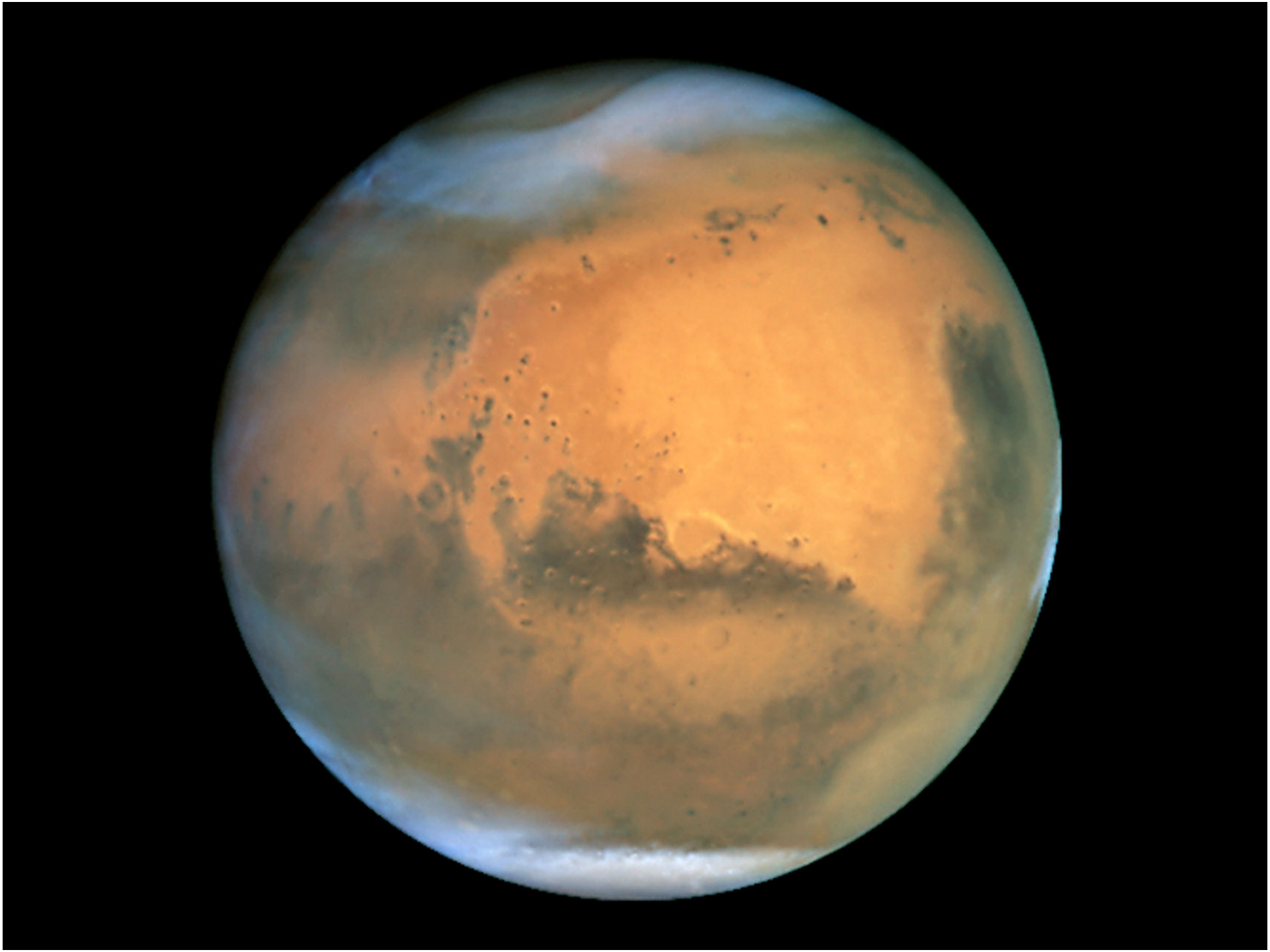


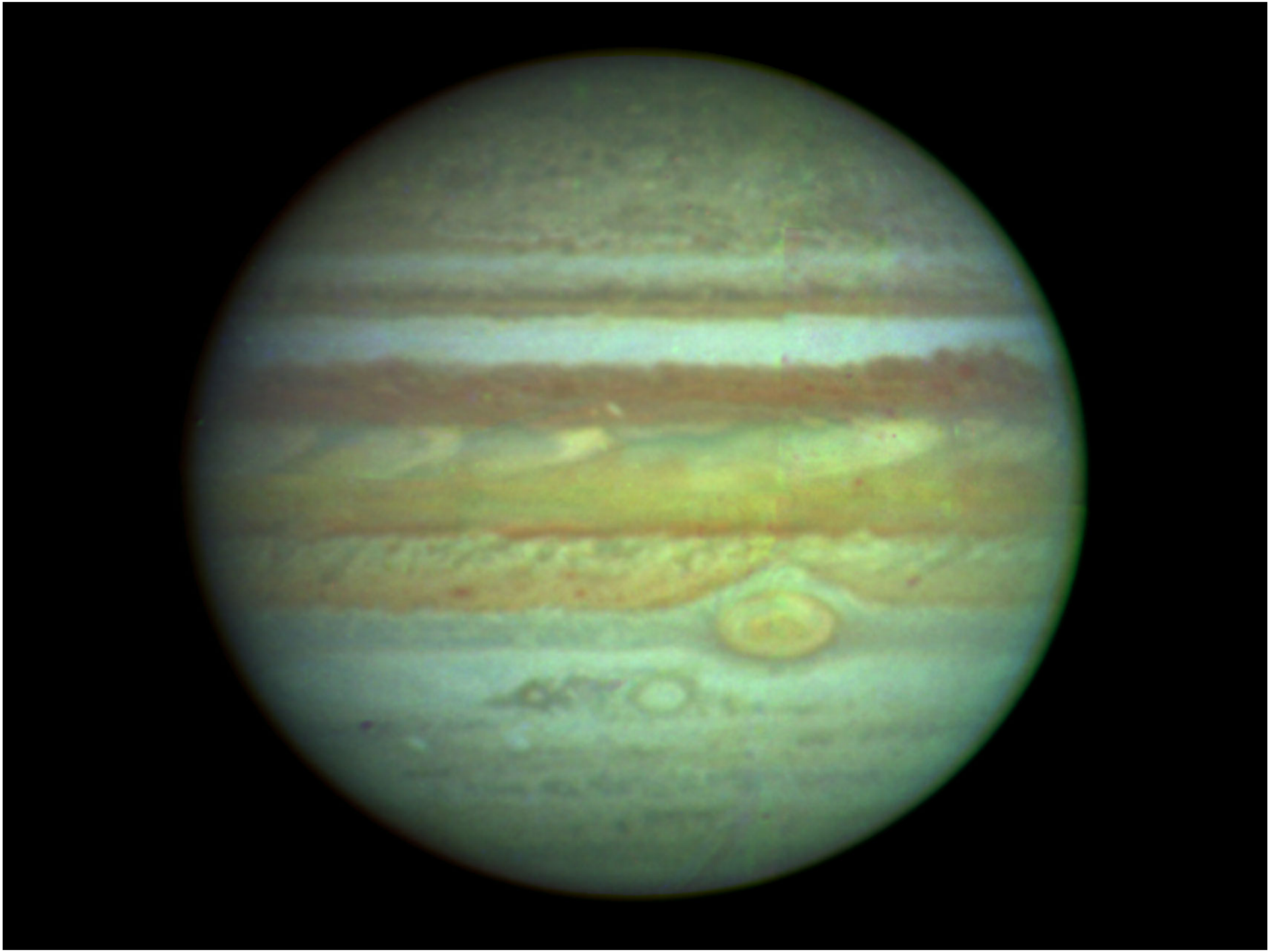


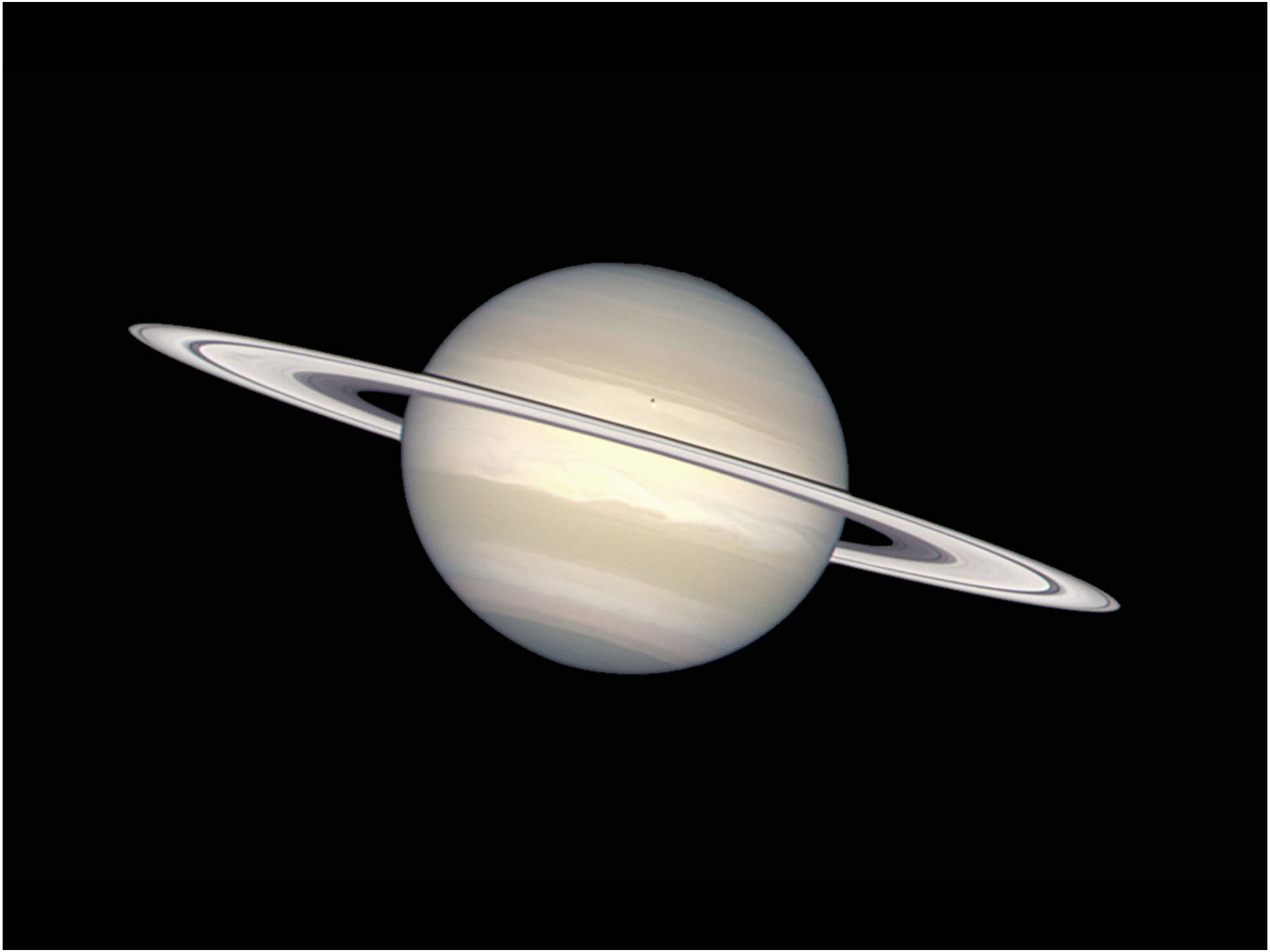


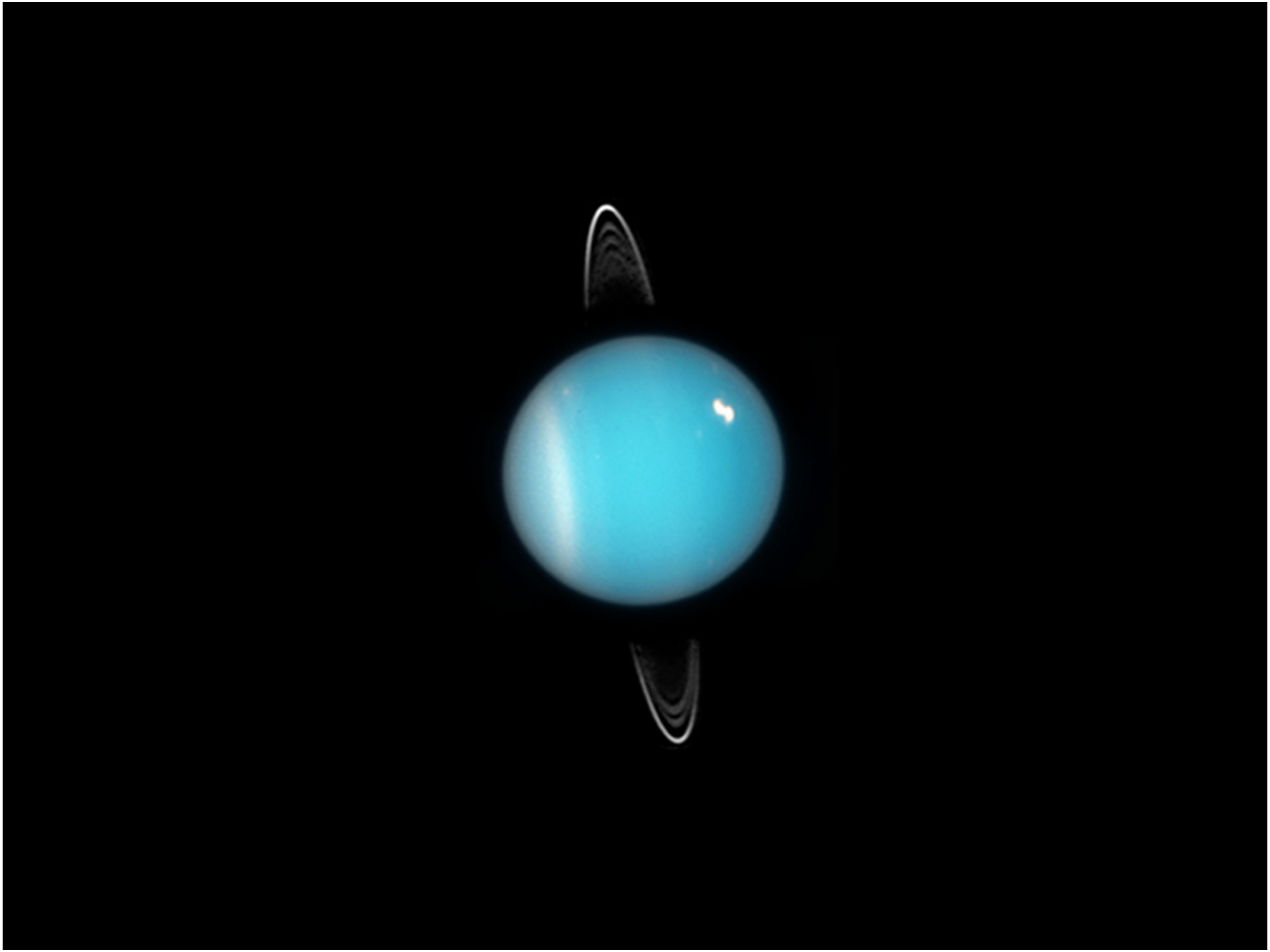


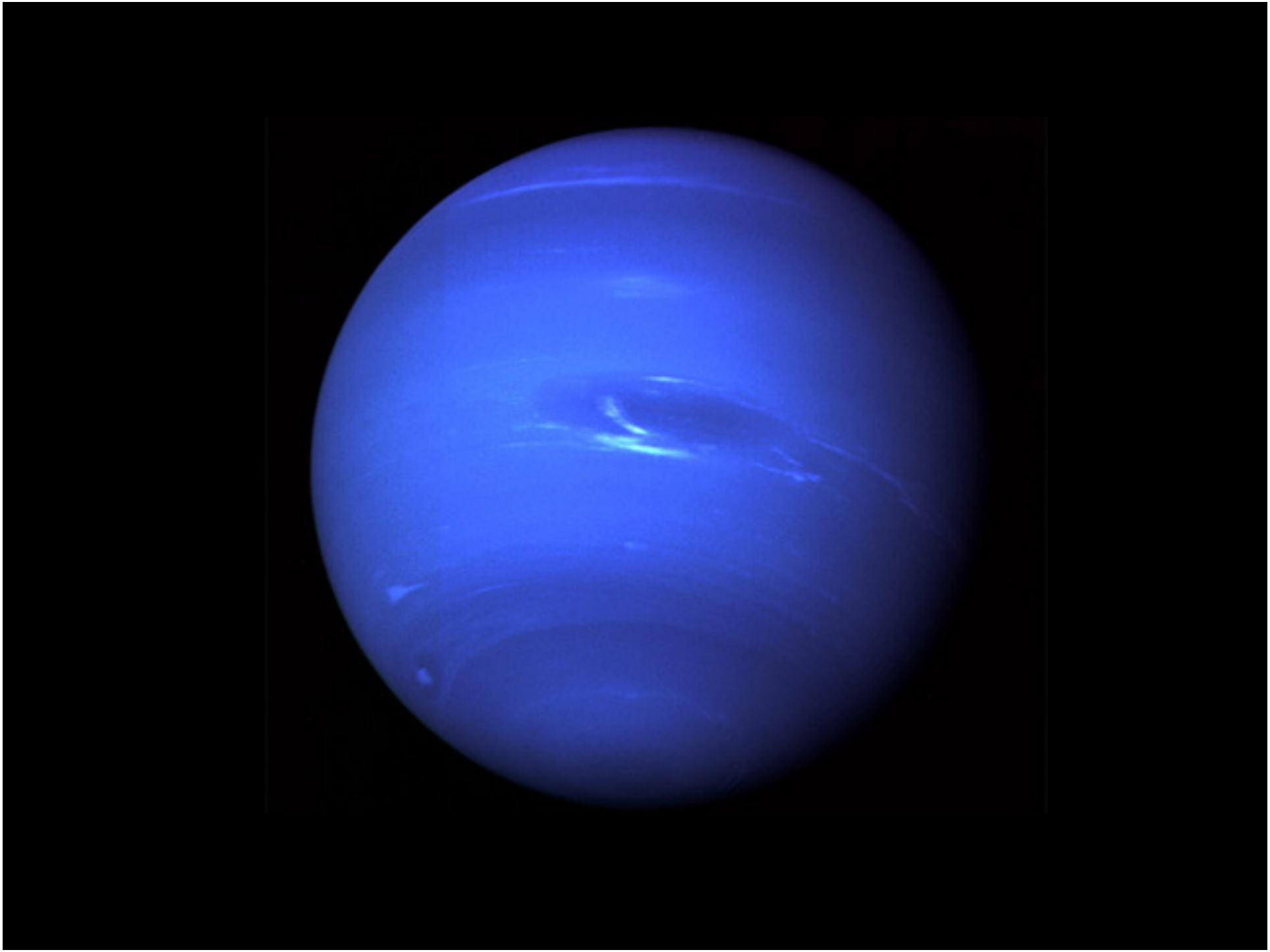






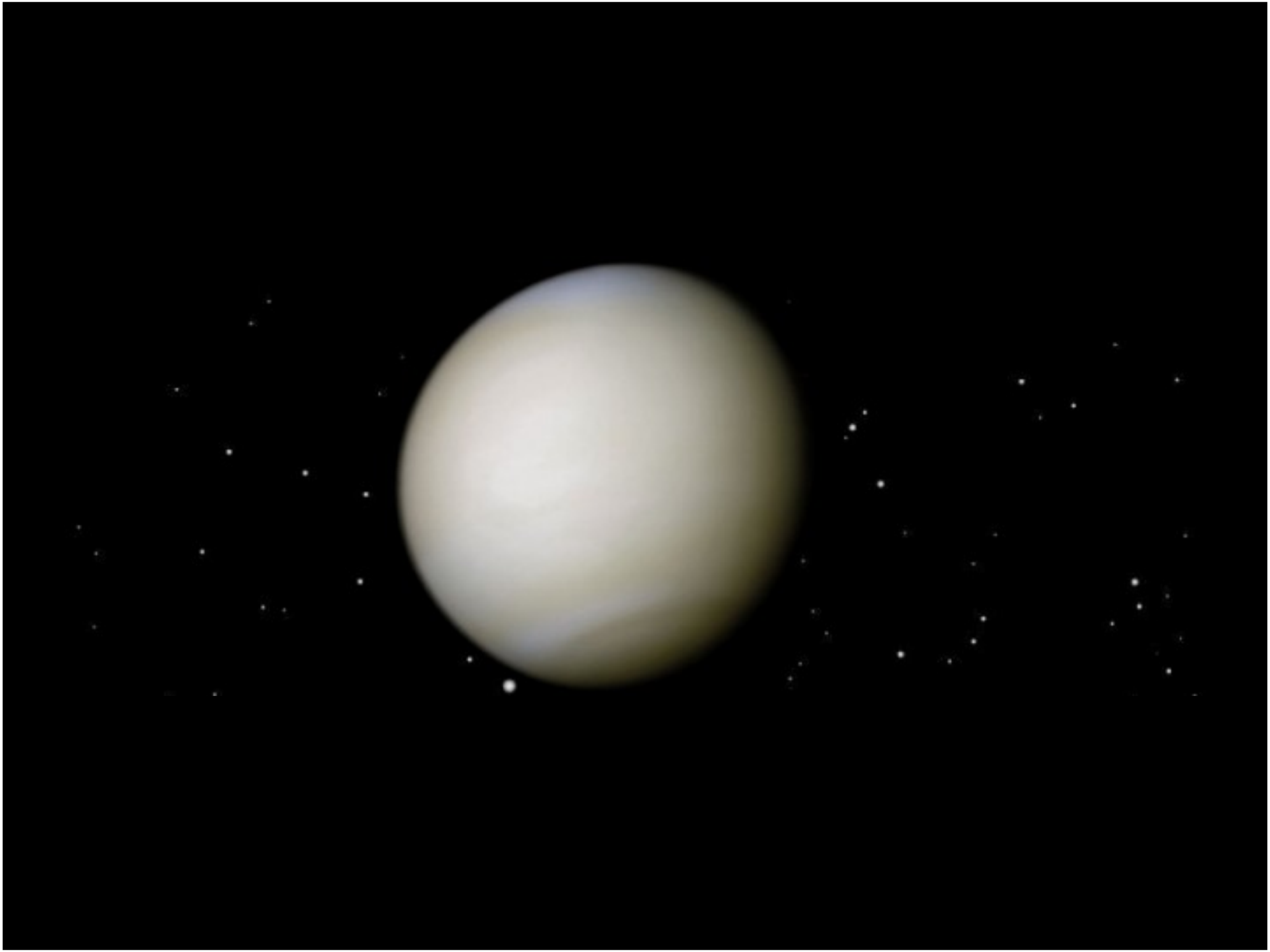






And God said…

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”
Genesis 1:2



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  - Who the Creator is
  - What He has created
  - The condition of the early earth
  - The perspective for the rest of the Genesis creation narrative

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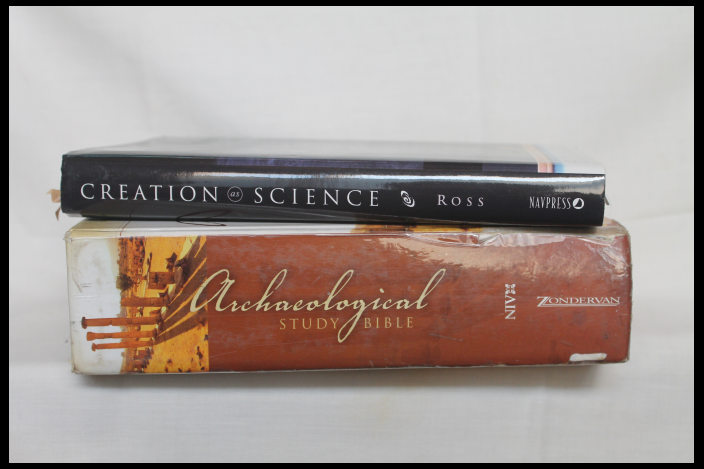
  - The perspective for the rest of the Genesis creation narrative – from the surface looking upward

God speaks to us

- How does God speak to us?
  - Scripture
- How does God speak to those that don't have Scripture, or choose to ignore it?
  - Nature
- God has written two books
  - Written Word – the Bible
  - Created Work - nature

God speaks to us

- God speaks to us through Scripture
  - Scripture contains multiple creation accounts
    - More than 27 chapter-length or longer texts
      - Job 38 – 41 possibly the oldest creation narrative
      - Psalm 104 repeats Genesis 1



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    - John 3:16

God speaks to us

- God speaks to us through nature
  - More than two dozen references to God speaking to us through nature
    - Job 10:8-14
    - Psalm 8
    - Romans 1:18-25



God speaks to us

Scripture says:

- *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse* – Romans 1:20
- *But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?* – Job 12:7-9

God speaks to us

– Belgic Confession, 1561

We know God by two means:

- *First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God;*
- *Second, God makes himself known to us more clearly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God's glory and for our salvation*

God speaks to us

— Augustine of Hippo

Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?

- What does creation tell us about God?
  - Powerful
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- What does creation tell us about God?
  - Powerful – speaks, and things appear
  - Intelligent – fine-tunes beyond comprehension
  - All-knowing – understands all completely
  - Loving – created universe and earth for us

- Since both the book of Scripture and the book of nature are written by God, they will agree if both are interpreted correctly
  - God's Word will not contradict God's work
    - Scripture will help us properly interpret nature
      - Universe has a beginning
    - Nature will help us properly interpret Scripture
      - Earth not flat
      - Earth not center of universe

- Scripture – tells us about God and what He has done
- Science – tells us about the natural realm
- How does our understanding of nature as described by science coincide with our understanding of nature from Scripture?

The main question is not whether Scripture is correct, but whether we are correctly interpreting and understanding Scripture.

- Hebrew language has limited vocabulary and uses language structure to add meaning to text
- Hebrew words have multiple literal meanings
  - Genesis text does not demand short periods of time for creation days

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - God created entire cosmos
- Science tells us:
  - The universe and all in it had a beginning

Agreement

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - Earth was covered with water and dark
    - *"You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains"* – Ps 104:8
    - *"…when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness"* – Job 38:9
- Science tells us:
  - Earth was covered with water and thick clouds
  - Much like Venus is now

Agreement

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - Day One
    - Let there be light
  - Day Two
    - Let there be a separation between water above and water below
- Science tells us:
  - Atmosphere transformed from opaque to translucent
    - A collision event formed large moon and stripped thick atmosphere away
    - Allowed light to penetrate to surface for first time
  - Water cycle started once sunlight visible

Agreement

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - Day Three
    - Let the dry ground appear
    - Let vegetation appear
- Science tells us:
  - Dry land appeared through continental uplift
    - Plate tectonics
  - Vegetation appeared on land

Agreement

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - Day Four
    - Let there be lights in the sky to serve as signs and seasons
      - He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting – Ps 104:19
- Science tells us:
  - Atmosphere transformed from translucent to transparent
    - Heavenly bodies become visible from earth's surface
    - Presence of vegetation helped transform atmosphere

Agreement

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - Day Five
    - Let the water swarm with creatures
    - Let the birds appear
- Science tells us:
  - Marine life appeared first
    - Most major phyla appeared at once
    - Followed photosynthesis of oxygen by plants
  - Terrestrial life, including birds, appeared later

Agreement

Creation Order

- Scripture tells us:
  - Day Six
    - Let livestock appear
    - Let Us make mankind in Our image
- Science tells us:
  - Specific land animals
  - Man arrived last

Agreement

Summary

- Scripture provides a brief summary of the creation order in Genesis, and additional details in other passages
- Thoughtful interpretation of the scientific record shows concordance with the Scriptural account
- Scripture provides identification of the Creator

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  - Jesus Christ

Conclusion

- Jesus
  - Designer
  - Creator
  - Sustainer
  - Redeemer
  - Lord
  - Savior
  - King

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  - Designer – Genesis 1:26
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  - King – Revelation 19:16

Conclusion

- How can we know Jesus?
  - Study the books
    - God's Word – the Bible
    - God's work – creation

Conclusion

- Read Scripture
  - Not all creation texts in Genesis
  - Need to correctly interpret Scripture through hard work
- Investigate creation
  - Need to correctly interpret the natural realm through hard work

Conclusion

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

– Psalm 19:1

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

– Psalm 19:14

More information

- Bible
- www.reasons.org
- www.sciencegodandlife.com/videos-and-studies.html
- Additional discussions on creation in late September following “God’s Not Dead” video