Hubble Witnesses Asteroid's Mysterious Disintegration

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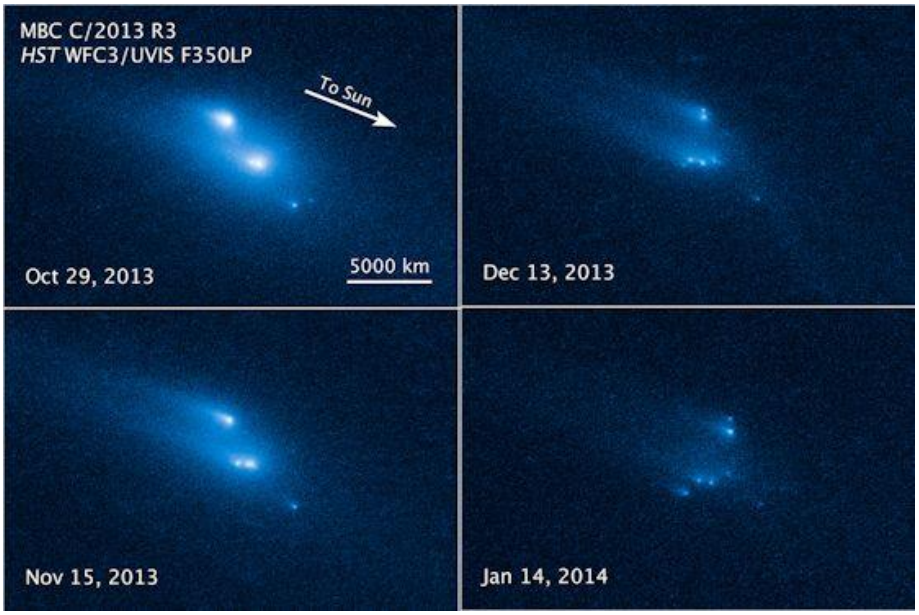
Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has recorded the never-before-seen break-up of an asteroid into as many as 10 smaller pieces. Fragile comets, comprised of ice and dust, have been seen falling apart as they approach the sun, but nothing like this has ever before been observed in the asteroid belt.

"This is a rock, and seeing it fall apart before our eyes is pretty amazing," said David Jewitt of the University of California at Los Angeles, who led the astronomical forensics investigation.

The crumbling asteroid, designated P/2013, R3 was first noticed as an unusual, fuzzy-looking object by the Catalina and Pan STARRS sky surveys on Sept. 15, 2013. A follow-up observation on October 1 with the W. M. Keck Observatory on the summit of Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano on the island of Hawaii, revealed three bodies moving together in an envelope of dust nearly the diameter of Earth.



This series of Hubble Space Telescope images reveals the breakup of an asteroid over a period of several months starting in late 2013. The largest fragments are up to 180 meters (200 yards) in radius. More

"The Keck Observatory showed us this thing was worth looking at with Hubble," Jewitt said. "With its superior resolution, space telescope observations soon showed there were really 10 embedded objects, each with comet-like dust tails. The four largest rocky fragments are up to 400 yards in diameter, about four times the length of a football field."

Hubble data showed the fragments drifting away from each other at a leisurely one mph. The asteroid began coming apart early last year, but new pieces continue to reveal themselves, as proved in the most recent images.

It is unlikely the asteroid is disintegrating because of a collision with another asteroid, which would have been instantaneous and violent by comparison to what has been observed. Debris from such a high-velocity smashup would also be expected to travel much faster than observed. **Nor is the asteroid coming unglued due to the pressure of interior ices warming and vaporizing.**

> ***Note from Pastor Kevin****: They say this because they think that asteroids are solid chunks of rock rather than flying rock piles as Dr. Brown maintains. See note at end of this article.*

This leaves a scenario in which [Some astronomers say] the asteroid is disintegrating due to a subtle effect of sunlight, which causes the rotation rate of the asteroid to gradually increase. Eventually, its

component pieces -- like grapes on a stem -- succumb to centrifugal force and gently pull apart. The possibility of disruption in this manner has been discussed by scientists for several years, but never reliably observed.

For this scenario to occur…

> ***Note from Pastor Kevin Lea****: This scientific observation is surprising to NASA scientists but not to Dr. Walt Brown, author of the Hydroplate Theory explanation for the flood of Noah.*
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> *As strange as it may seem, all evidence we have pertaining to asteroids and comets supports Dr. Brown's theory that these cosmic bodies originated from the earth. Google on "origin of asteroids," and his site will be the first hit.*
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> *Dr. Brown theorizes that before and during the flood of Noah, tidal effects caused the temperature and pressure of water under the earth's crust (subterranean water) to increase. The crust eventually ruptured, allowing the now supercritical water and associated rock debris to jettison into space, some at velocities sufficient to escape earth's gravity. He goes on to explain how some of this material (water and rock) became asteroids and meteors and some formed comets.*
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> *Brown's theory predicts that most asteroids are actually rock piles held together by weak gravitational attraction and ice. If the rock pile is disturbed in a way that exposes the underlying ice to the vacuum of space, the ice begins to sublimate, creating a thrust vector that can cause the chunks to accelerate, eventually overcoming the gravitational attraction that holds it together. As a result, the asteroid flies apart (becomes "unglued"), just as the Hubble telescope has observed. The resultant pieces are now miniature comets for reasons explained in Dr. Brown's book, which can be read online at: http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/Asteroids.html and http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/Comets.html.*

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