



Thinking About Johann Kepler

For Further Study Answer Key

- 1) a) Geocentrism: The view that the earth is in the center of the solar system and universe.
b) Heliocentrism: The view that the sun is in the center of the solar system, or reference to the sun as the center.

Note: The longstanding argument between these has generally been eclipsed by general relativity, which asserts that there is no object fixed in space but measurements are only made by comparing motion relative to different objects. In this view, both heliocentrism and geocentrism are equally valid. See “Geocentricity and Creation” by Dr. Gerald Aardsma on icr.org for more information.

- 2) Ellipses: Various answers are possible. Alternate procedures are also practical, and demonstration videos are available online.
- 3) People who regard nature as having equal authority with Scripture can be more easily led to doubt the Scripture and fall into error. This opens a danger that ideas that masquerade as mere natural observations (but are really faulty interpretations of observations) will supplant biblical teachings if they conflict.
- 4) a) Perhaps God did not write His word accurately. Perhaps the scientist is ill-informed, either about nature, the limits of science, the Bible, or all three. Also, sin would cause a scientist, like anybody else, to reject or discount the Bible.
b) Reconciliation between a scientist and God would have to happen in God’s time, but resolution of the issue could proceed in the mind of a bystander (the student) by further study of the Bible and the relevant science. In fact, dogged and lengthy pursuit might be necessary.

A common way to deal with these apparent conflicts is to compartmentalize them, so that one is true, and the other, though contradicting, is also true. This, however, is not a real resolution.