

Study guide

Donahue, William H. *Selections from Kepler's Astronomia Nova*. 1635. Green Lion Press, 2004, pp. 1-28. Read the introductory section on pages 1-3. Then *skip the next sections beginning on page 3 and leading up to page 18*. In these sections, he describes several reasons why Copernicus' heliocentric theory is superior to Ptolemy's geocentric theory. Now, begin reading on page 18, up until page 26. In this section, Kepler addresses objections to Copernicus' theory which are based on Holy Scripture.

1. Why, according to Kepler, do some pious people withhold assent from Copernicus' heliocentric theory? How does Kepler answer this objection? In particular,
 - 1.1. how do people acquire knowledge of nature? What are some examples that Kepler provides?
 - 1.2. Do Copernicans still use language that suggests that the sun appears to be moving?
 - 1.3. What examples does Kepler provide of similar language in for example, the Psalms, in Joshua, and the other parts of Scripture?
 - 1.4. What is Kepler's main point regarding Scriptural interpretation? Do you agree with his approach? In particular, does Kepler's approach allow for Scripture it to be interpreted in any way whatsoever? Are there any dangers to Kepler's approach?
2. What advice does Kepler provide for astronomers? for idiots? Do you find his language to be offensive? Why do you suppose he uses such language?