

Prof. John S. Lewis

Brief Biographical Sketch

John S. Lewis is Professor Emeritus of Planetary Sciences and Co-Director of the Space Engineering Research Center at the University of Arizona. He was previously a Professor of Planetary Sciences and Chemistry at MIT. He was a Visiting Associate Professor at California Institute of Technology in 1973 and a Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing, PRC for the 2005-2006 academic year.

His research interests are related to the application of chemistry to astronomical problems, including the origin of the Solar System, the evolution of planetary atmospheres, the origin of organic matter in planetary environments, the chemical structure and thermal history of icy satellites, the hazards of comet and asteroid bombardment of Earth, and the extraction, processing, and use of the energy and material resources of nearby space. He served on the Board of Directors of American Rocket Company (AmRoc) during the development of hybrid rocket motors for the private launch business, a process that culminated in the use of an AmRoc-designed motor to propel SpaceShipOne to an altitude of over 100 km and win astronaut's wings for its pilots in 2004.

He is presently Chief Scientist for Deep Space Industries, an asteroid-mining company.

He has served as a member or Chairman of a wide variety of NASA and National Academy of Sciences (NAS) advisory committees and review panels, spanning topics ranging from planetary exploration and the origin of life to interstellar communication. He has written 19 books, including graduate and undergraduate texts and popular science books, and has authored over 150 scientific publications and has given invited lectures at over 100 colleges, universities, and research centers throughout the world.

He and Sister Lewis are converts who joined the Church in 1981. They served for a year at Tsinghua University in Beijing through BYU's China Teachers Program, and served as missionaries for 18 months in the International Zone of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. They have recently received a call to return to mission service in the New Zealand Wellington Mission in October of this year. They have six children and 32 grandchildren. Their granddaughter Amber is now serving in the Nova Scotia Halifax Mission.

Further information available at:

<http://lds.org/pages/we-lived-with-god?lang=eng>

<http://www.mormonscholarstestify.org>

Google: "John S. Lewis" (with quotes)

Contact: jsl@U.Arizona.edu