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00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:16,000

We are to do new and remarkable things in the future

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and to be significant to both our times and the world of our children.

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00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:23,000

Thank you very much.

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00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:33,000

[Applause]

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Mariner 10 returned almost 3000 pictures of the surface of Mercury.

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These features and these pictures are like the pages of a history book.

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Now we can begin to compare and contrast...to look for similarities and differences...

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and try to recognize our familial relationships among the terrestrial planets.

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Are we cousins? Or brothers? Or are all of bizarre strangers that happen to inhabit

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:13,000

the same portion of the solar system.

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Saturn and the rings has been my favorite picture.

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I have it on the wall down at Caltech. A great big version of it.

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And we used it in the Christmas card from JPL, I think, at that point.

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There's a picture...it's up close...it shows beautiful Saturn with the rings around it.

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You can see the shadow of the rings on Saturn. You can see that the rings are actually transparent.

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Elegantly. But then as you look at it you realize you are behind Saturn looking back at the sun and the Earth.

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:49,000

That's a fantastic sense! You the viewer, really, your brain, is behind Saturn!

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:02:14,000

To me that was a mind-blowing experience. It still is.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:19,000

There was a special irony at JPL and a special irony for me personally since how deeply I believed

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in planetary exploration...and the greatest exploration...the greatest exploration in this century certainly

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:37,000

that century, the 20th century, and maybe since Captain Cook or Magellan...that's obviously arguable..

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was going on. Voyager was launched in '77. '79, the first Jupiter encounter. '80, first Saturn encounter.

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At the very time that the program was being strangled because of this launch vehicle problem.