

IT ALL BEGINS WITH A BIG INTELLIGENT BANG

"In, 1799, Napoleon received a copy of *Celestial Mechanics* from its author...Marquis de Laplace. Assessing its contents [Napoleon] told the great mathematician. You have written this huge work on the heavens without once mentioning the Author of the universe," to which Laplace replied...'Sire, I have no need of that hypothesis" [*Christianity Today*, April 3, 1987, p. 22]. All philosophers of science know that the way you judge the validity of a hypothesis, of your scientific model can be gauged by "the explanatory power" of your hypothesis [see Tim Keller, *Reason for God* p. 120]. Magicians by sleight of hand pull a rabbit out of a hat, or make the Statue of Liberty vanish and then reappear. But we know it's all an illusion. But how do you pull Sun, moon, stars, vast galaxies; indeed an entire universe 13.7 billion light years across; how do you pull a universe out of a hat? Take that position and you've punctured the explanatory power of your hypothesis. Take that position and you've got a lot of explaining to do. Paul's words in Acts 14:16-17 make sense to me: "The living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them...has not left Himself without witness....[Acts 14:16-17]. You see the world is full of evidences, footprints and fingerprints of God's handiwork. There is proof beyond reasonable doubt. There are dramatic clues. The universe is literally crawling with them. We may ignore the evidences, "suppress the truth," try to wipe God's fingerprints off His Handiwork. But the tell-tale clues remain. Einstein (picture) had it right. "God does not play dice" (with the universe) [Hawking, *A Brief History of Time*, p. 56; *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, p. 200]. That's what you get when you exclude God from the origin of the Universe, a very long crap game, a game of luck. This morning I want to introduce you to the Architect of the Universe, the one who planned and fashioned it all. To assume that this universe of mind-boggling size and infinite complexity came into being by chance; it just happened; who thinks we just got lucky; they've got a lot of explaining do.

I. THE BIBLICAL BIG BANG. In the drama of creation, God is the hero. The Architect extraordinaire. 35 times throughout the prologue His name is used. His name dominates the whole chapter and catches the eye at every point. In creation's drama God is the hero, the story's star.

"In the beginning God **CREATED**." This Hebrew word [bara] translated create, is a special verb used only to describe God. A human being may be a craftsman and may be innovative with the materials he uses, but man can never create. Creation is exclusively the work of God. The word, "create" itself has the additional connotation that God made all things out of nothing [creation *ex nihilo*]. In the beginning, there was no pre-existent material, just God. God made the universe out of absolute nothingness. Some scientists call this a **vacuum genesis**. This theory suggests that the universe began from a single particle arising from an absolute vacuum. The question is: where did this dense knot of energy/reality come from? The bible tells us. A word thundered from God's lips: "And God said, 'Let there be light.'" And that word from God's lips was so powerful that instantly in an explosion of light, heat, and mighty radiation; this vast universe was suddenly full of light. God spoke the universe into existence. Eight times in Genesis 1 we're told God uttered His let there be's. Dr. Meredith Kline calls these explosive words from God's mouth, Architectural Directives. A grand house, a sanctuary, a shrine, a Temple for God's praise is being constructed by the words of God's mouth. And God's simple speech, His word shook the universe and called it into being.

What is more vs. 2 tells us: "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Like an eagle hovering over its yet undeveloped young, the Spirit of God, the very life of God was hovering moving this universe from chaos to beautiful order. Then comes the explosive words in vs. 2. "And God said: 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

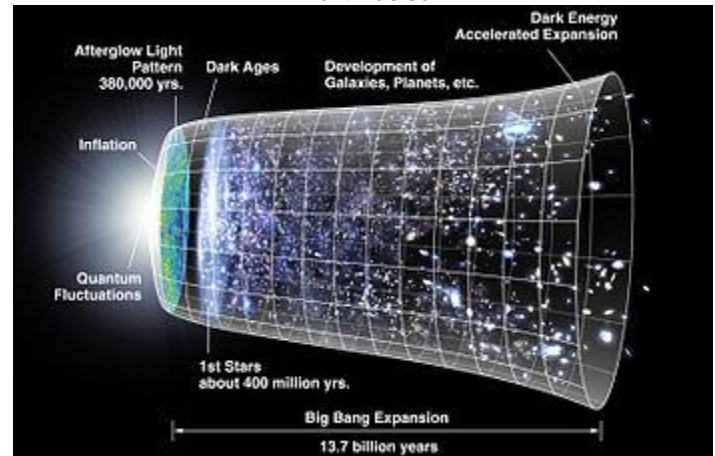
You might say, I believe in a modified biblical big bang theory summed up in a bumper sticker I once saw. Here it is:

The Big Bang Theory:

Then God said, "LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

BANG!

And it was so!



In the film, *God's Not Dead* Josh Wheaton, a freshman, is forced to defend his faith in Professor Radisson's Philosophy 101 class. Professor Radisson began his class with the unsubstantiated claim, **GOD IS DEAD**. He wanted to get this issue out of the way from the get go. So he asked the class to write this phrase on a sheet of paper and sign the sheet with their names. Josh Wheaton refused to sign on the dotted line something he didn't believe. So, Dr. Radisson challenged Josh to an intellectual duel. Josh had to defend his belief system before the class. His defense of the faith was a slam dunk explanation of the Big Bang Theory and the core message of Genesis 1:2. Watch! [clip]. Get it? The big bang presupposes a beginning, a ground zero, the cosmic flash point. God articulated reality into existence by the Word of His mouth. His voice lit the fuse; that ignited the first dramatic inflationary expansion of reality, that later seeded the stars. Scientists call it the Big Bang. The Bible says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." That's the first commercial for the Creator. The biblical big bang.

II & III. THE COSMIC GRAVITY RULER AND THE DART NAILED BULLSEYE FROM OUTERSPACE. Lee Strobel in his book and film series, *The Case for the Creator* spells out another mind-boggling series of evidences for the Lord sustaining on a precise razor's edge this universe that we're a part of [Case for a Creator 26:18 to 30:00 see DVD]. Think of that ruler that spans the gargantuan breadth (13.7 billion light years across) of the Universe. If comparatively you would shift the **force of gravity** one inch; the impact on life in the universe would be catastrophic and earth would be absolutely uninhabitable. We know this! The cosmological constant describes the **expansion speed of space**. If the expansion speed is too fast, then the universe would expand too quickly and you could never form material objects like

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stars and galaxies and planets could never form. The Cosmological constant is at such a razor's edge that it's fine-tuned to one part in one hundred million, billion, billion, billion, billion, billion. The precision is like throwing a dart from a hundreds of miles into space and hitting a bullseye target dead on at the width of a single atom. A Ruler, A Dart.

Ah. Our atheistic friends say. I don't see any God. I can't see him, smell, taste, and so empirically experience God. Well think! Just because God doesn't fit in your box, doesn't mean God doesn't exist. World Class Notre Dame CRC philosopher Dr. Alvin Plantinga argues, "*If you look in your pup tent for a St. Bernard, and you don't see one, it is reasonable to assume that there is no St. Bernard in your tent. But if you look into your pup tent for a "no-see-um" (an extremely small insect with a bite out of all proportion to its size) and you don't see any, it is not reasonable to assume they aren't there. Because, after all, no one can see "em."* [In T. Keller, Reason for God, location 593] If God this side of Paradise is invisible, why should we expect Him to be other than He is? For after all, "*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings*" [Proverbs 25:2].

IV. THE NEEDLEPOINT TAPESTRY OF CREATION. FYI the literary genre here in Genesis 1 is prose narrative, so we should expect figurative elements. Thus, there is an explicit prose structure to Genesis one. On days one through three God made creation's realms and on days four through six He shaped the rulers who inhabit those realms. The power point slides and Winnie's Days of Creation needlepoint illustrate this.

Creation's Kingdoms**Creation's Kings**1. **Day/Night** vv. 1-54. **vv. 14-19-Sun/Moon**2. **Sky/Waters** vv. 6-85. **vv. 20-23-Birds/Fish**3. **Land/Vegetation** vv. 9-136. **vv. 24-31-Animals/Mankind**

I want you to ponder this work of art, my wife put together. Each needlepoint she says, took approximately 100 hours to put together. So 600 hours all together. [How long did it take God to put it all together? That's a discussion for another time and place]. The structure of the needlepoints are modeled after the poetic structure of Genesis one. Let me explain.

V. THE IRREDUCIBLY COMPLEX MOUSETRAP. The Bible tells us that creation itself is our window on God. "*The heavens declare the Glory of God,*" Psalm 19:1 says. So all around us we find commercials for the Creator. A single celled organism you see through an electron microscope pulls back the curtain on the Creator. If you think deeply about such a cell you can see the thumb print of God. "*One cell is more complex than the largest computer ever made*" [Dr. James Gray]. Biochemist from Le High University, Dr. Michael Behe says that the systems built into the cell are so complex and so interrelated that if you would remove any one of the parts, the entire system would shut down. He calls a single cell, "*irreducibly complex.*" And then he talks about a simple machine. A mouse-trap. He says, "*You need all the parts to catch a mouse. You can't catch a few mice with a platform, then add the spring and catch a few more, and then add the hammer and improve its function. All the parts must be there to have any function at all. The mousetrap is irreducibly complex*" [Christianity Today, April 28, 1997, p. 16]. A mousetrap did not evolve one system at a time. And neither did a single cell. Is it any wonder that Sir Frederick Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe calculated the chances for a single celled organism to come into being by accident was one chance out of 10 to the 40,000th

power. Or about the mathematical equivalent of a tornado moving into a junkyard and creating out of the nuts and bolts a Boeing 747, fueled up and ready to fly [Report in London Daily Express, December 14, 1981]. I call a single cell, a commercial for the Creator. I can't explain its irreducible complexity without a Super-intelligent Designer.

VI. THE THEATER, THE DRAMA AND THE DANCE. When Moses wrote Genesis the burning question of the day wasn't science, it was the God question. Back then pagan culture was god-crazy. Moses wrote Genesis 1 in part as a prophetic critique of the pagan religions of the day. Astrology and horoscope forecasts weren't back page, but front page, top drawer stuff. People worshipped the stars, were awestruck before the sun, and enchanted before the moon, as if they all were gods. Genesis blows pagan ideas to bits. Our destiny isn't ruled by the sun-god Re. Moses doesn't even name the Sun and Moon, they're just the greater and lesser light. Sun & moon & stars aren't gods, they don't rule, they "*serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years*" [Genesis 1:14]. God the great Architect installed lighting in the firmament above. When God set this vast cosmos in motion, He wasn't playing with dice. He was meticulously choreographing a great dance, painting a star-studded mural of breathtaking beauty. Creation is God's Temple. God's Home. And He wants to get to know you. To have you make His home, your home. [Dory. Sea Shells that point us home.]

Here's the good news. God did not stay a "no-see-um." The invisible God, Yahweh, pulled back the curtains and in Christ revealed Himself. "*The Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us*" [John 1:14]. The living God, Architect of the Universe moved into our neighborhood. He made planet earth, our home His home. And this miracle working Rabbi, Jesus Christ loved people like you and me so much that He died on the cross to wipe out the full debt of our sin and put us right with God. Then on Easter Sunday morning, Jesus rose again and demonstrated He was alive from the dead with "*many convincing proofs*" [Acts 1:3]. It doesn't matter how much you've messed up; how far you've wandered from God; or how deep a hole you find yourself in. No matter how far you've drifted, the Father will sprint toward you, wrap His arms around you and welcome you, home. Indeed, Jesus by His Spirit will enter your body, your mind and make your heart, His home. Indeed, Jesus says, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door; I come into him; share a meal with him and he with me.*"

[1] For a cell to work you need: 1) a functioning membrane; 2) A system to build the DNA units; 3) A system for energy processing; All those systems have to be operational simultaneously for the cell to work [Christianity Today, April 28, 1997, p. 19].

Genesis 1:1-8, 31

The Case for the Creator: Racine CRC

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