



On Where It All Began 3/16/25

Gen 1:1, "In the beginning... God created

The Cultural Paradigm = SCIENCE and RELIGION can't co-exist

VS. The Bible and Science CAN and should co-exist

Galileo, "The scriptures are meant to tell us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go... I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with intellect has intended us to forgo its use."

Rom 1:20, " Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse... precisely because:

The Scope of Creation "that we know" is mind-numbing:

- 1 Galaxy – 100,000 x 9.5 trillion km across w/100 billion stars
- Universe – 100 billion galaxies
- Number of stars in universe = number of grains of sand on all the beaches of the earth (100 billion x 100 billion)

Psalms 19, "The heavens declare your glory!

So what is the hangup between the Bible and science?

A: Usually = ignorance of both scientists and Christians

Ex. 1 - The Church's persecution of Galileo

Ex 2 - Richard Dawkins (zoologist) book *The God Delusion*

.... neither are correct: The Bible says science and religion should be friends, and BOTH should lead us to God. Period.

Science = explains the mechanism, the HOW of the universe

The Bible = explains the purpose, the WHY of the universe

.... and not only the WHY, but the WHO

A. Where did the universe come from? = a bad Question.

The better question = WHO did the universe come from?

Science says - Universe began 13.7 Billion years ago with the Big Bang because of: 4 Pieces of "after-the-fact" evidence

1. the Red Shift of Galaxies - Doppler Effect says the universe is expanding outward away from a central point
 2. Microwave background radiation
 3. Helium levels proven consistent with modern observation
 4. Recent pictures & surveys on the way that galaxies cluster
- d. the Laws of Physics stop working at Big Bang's explosion, 10^{-43} sec

B. 5 Questions that Scientists Cannot Answer on the Beginnings of the Universe that could easily lead someone to believe in God

1. Question of Origins (Who/what is the first cause?)
 - a. Origin of Matter to have "anything" to go "bang" at all
 - b. Origin of the Laws of Physics to allow it to work
 - c. Origin of Energy to allow it to explode
 - d. Origin of "Who pulled the trigger" at the explosion (10^{-43} sec)
2. The Question of Purpose (Why is it here?)
3. Question of Design (or, intelligent Design)
 - a. "To get the universe as it is simply from chance & natural selection, it would be the equivalent of removing gravity & any obstacles, standing on the earth, & shooting an arrow to a point that is 1 centimeter in diameter 13 billion light years away
4. Question of Intelligibility (Einstein, "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible.")
5. Question of Moral Authority in created humanity
 - a. Humans should have NO concern for murder. Yet, we do.

The ONLY logical answer = an infinite, intelligent (omniscient) and all-powerful (omnipotent) God created the universe.

Why this matters?

Religion + Science seek answers.

Both provide answers where the other cannot.

SCIENCE = HOW THINGS WERE CREATED (today's science theories)

+ RELIGION/THE BIBLE = there IS a CREATOR GOD

C. God and the Big Bang (6 theories of the days of creation: Gen 1)

1. Literal 24-Hour Day Theory - a literal reading that rejects science

a. However, MANY Bible verses are not meant to be taken literally. Such as, Deut 21:18-21 - stone to death our rebellious children?

Or, Mt 5:29, gouge out your eye if it causes you to sin/lust

*Use Your Brain. God often has a deeper point than surface literalism.

2. Age-Day Theory (allows for Big Bang)

a. "Yom"/Day in Hebrew is not a 24 hour period, rather it is a "season" After all, the modern calendar wasn't even invented until 500 years ago

*Note 2 Peter 3:8, " Don't let it escape your notice, dear friends, that with the Lord 1 day is like 1000 years and 1000 years a day"

3. Gap Theory (allows for Big Bang)

a. Between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2 an indefinite period of time passed during which the geological ages took place, dinosaurs, the ice age, destroying much of creation and making these animals extinct. Gen 1-2 refers to a re-creation after the Ice Age.

4. Revelation-Day Theory (allows for Big Bang)

- a. Creation took place over billions of years as science has determined, but was revealed in "word pictures" of 7, 24 hour days.
 - 1) like Rev 20:11, "all the dead were standing before the great white throne, and they were judged according to what they had done." IE, probably not a single file line of billions of people
 - * rather this is a "word picture" trying to convey judgment idea

5. Eden-Only Theory (allows for Big Bang)

- a. the Genesis account reflects only the creation of the Garden of Eden (even though it is a *big* garden) in six 24-hour periods.

6. Sacred Week Theory (idea of Big Bang is irrelevant)

- a. "week" = literary vehicle to convey the message of creation.
- b. Emphasizes the writer's purpose is theological, not scientific.
- c. God always reveals His Truth through that which is known, not through that which is unknown; the Hebrews had no clue about science, thus God would not have revealed the "how" of creation to them, only the purpose behind it and other theological truths

To these 3 points of application:

1) Creation was a mere "week's work" for God, however it was a LOT of work for God, such that even God had to rest.

*we often take for granted how incomprehensible the "work" for God must have been to create all that exists for US to have life, and not just any life, but a GOOD, ABUNDANT LIFE

*we rarely consider that God has feelings (grief, joy, etc)

*that God LABORED on our behalf... sounds like a birth, yes?

2) God went to all the trouble of creating the universe for the purpose of having children/us and thus a temporary home for family

2 Cor 6:8, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters"

3) The entire universe, including human beings, belongs to God, but God offers stewardship of this world to us humans, for the point of ENJOYING IT/abundance

Gen 1:26-28, "Let us create humans in our image; let them fill the earth and master it"; NOT master to a slave; rather, Master as in music

A Master Musicians/pianist LOVES to play piano!

And as with any instrument, sport or craft, the BETTER YOU GET, the more enjoyment you uncover. God's path = getting better at life

*IE, the better you get at living life God's way (the way you were created to live), then the more joy you will get out of the Creation of God

John 15:11, "I came that your joy (in Me) would be complete"

The key to this: MASTER your life/becoming a disciple of Jesus

Gen 1:26-28, "Let us create humans in our image; let them.... master it"

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - See notes above for details

Mar 17 Mon - Rev 20 Mar 18 Tues - 1 Thess 4 Mar 19 Wed - Psalm 19
Mar 20 Thur - Mt 5 Mar 21 Fri - 2 Pet 3 Mar 22 Sat - 2 Cor 6

Items of Note:

Sunday Mar 23 Create and Contemplate w/Sherri Jones. Register online or email Info@LPF.church *after church Lunch, Art, Fellowship, etc

Wed night program OFF this Wed for Spring Break

Wed Mar 26 - Wed Night of Prayer and Worship, 6:30 pm

March 27 - Men's Gathering @ Jason's Deli in Alliance (6:30)

Current Missions = CANNED FOOD DRIVE details at missions station