

## **Lesson 2: Does God Exist?**

Now that we know truth exists, we know that the Bible could be true – but have not established this yet.

We are going to talk about a THEISTIC GOD – existing beyond the world (and universe), who created the world (and universe), and who sustains the world (and universe).

To be made in God's image means that you are a person like God, have a mind, emotion and will. You are a moral being who can make choices.

### **THREE MAJOR RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS**

THEISM – God Made All (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)

PANTHEISM – God Is All (Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age)

ATHEISM – No God At All (Religious and Secular Humanism)

Religion = Your explanation of ultimate reality

One definition of faith = belief without evidence.

By this standard everyone has faith – and it takes much more of it to be an atheist! (There is much more evidence for Christianity, than for atheism – therefore atheism requires more faith.)

### **THREE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

- 1) Cosmological Argument (The Universe had a beginning)
- 2) Teleological Argument (The Universe is designed)
- 3) Moral Argument (Absolute, objective, moral laws exist)

### **COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT**

The universe had a beginning (big bang) – it therefore must have a cause.

Second Law Of Thermodynamics

Universe Is Expanding

Radiation Afterglow

Great Galaxy Seeds

Einstein's Theory Of General Relativity

### **SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS**

The universe is running down; it is running out of usable energy. If it is running down, but began an infinitely long time ago, it would be completely out of usable energy. Therefore, at some point in the past, the universe must have had a beginning.

## **THE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING**

In 1929, Edwin Hubble discovered that the galaxies were moving away from us (by observing a red shift in the light coming from them). This proves that the universe is expanding – and if it is expanding, at some point it must had a beginning. (Yes, this is the “Big Bang”).

If time were reversed, the universe would collapse back into nothing.

## **RADIATION AFTERGLOW**

Predicted in 1948, it was discovered in 1965 and earned the discoverers a Nobel Prize in 1978. Proved to be the end of the eternal universe theory.

## **GREAT GALAXY SEEDS**

It was also predicted that minor temperature variation is this radiation afterglow would be needed in order for galaxies to form. In 1989, a satellite (Cosmic Background Explorer) was launched in order to search for these very minor temperature variations. After three years data was obtained proving that such minor variations do exist. This resulted in a Nobel Prize in 2006.

Leader of the project, George Smoot said, “We have found the machining marks of the creator” and “If you are religious, it’s like looking at God”.

Without these very minor variations, we would not be here. The Big Bang was not a chaotic event. It was and is guided.....

## **EINSTEIN’S THEORY OF GENERAL RELATIVITY**

Proves that space, time and matter all had a beginning. When he first came up with the calculations, he called the results irritating. In order to avoid a universe with a beginning, Einstein inserts a “fudge factor” into his equation – he called it the “cosmological constant”. He later call this the greatest mistake of his life. After Hubble’s discoveries, he changed his position.

If general relativity is true, the universe had a beginning.

“...astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world.... The essential element in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis is the same.” - Robert Jastrow, founder of NASA’s Goddard Institute of Space Studies, in *God and the Astronomers*, Page 14.

Jastrow also said in an interview: “Astronomers now find that they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover.... That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact.” (Remember, he claimed to be an agnostic.... not a Christian, this did not come from his personal religious beliefs.)

Nobel Prize Winners State:

Arno Penzias – “The best data we have (concerning the Big Bang) are exactly what I would have predicted had I had nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms and the Bible as a whole.”

Robert Wilson – “Certainly there was something that set it all off..... I can’t think of a better theory of the origin of the universe to match Genesis.”

George Smoot – “There is no doubt that a parallel exists between the big bang as an event and the Christian notion of creation from nothing.”

### **PHILOSOPHICAL EVIDENCE THAT THE UNIVERSE HAD A BEGINNING:**

- 1) Assume that the universe is infinite – that it is infinitely old
- 2) In order for the universe to get to this point, it must have traversed an infinite amount of time.
- 3) It is impossible for anything to traverse an infinite amount of time.
- 4) Therefore, it is impossible for the universe to be infinitely old. If it is not infinitely old, it must have a beginning.

### **THE BIBLE SAYS THAT TIME HAD A BEGINNING:**

*“No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.” 1Cor 2:7 (NIV)*

*“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time” 2 Tim 1:9 (NIV)*

*“In the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time” Titus 1:2 (NIV)*

*“To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:25 (NASB)*

## **IF THE UNIVERSE HAS A BEGINNING, THEN IT MUST HAVE HAD A BEGINNER**

The evidence allows only two options.

EITHER

1) No One Created Something Out Of Nothing (the atheistic view)

OR

2) Someone Created Something Out Of Nothing (theistic view)

WHICH VIEW IS MORE REASONABLE????

Question to ask atheists: "If there is no God, why is there something rather than nothing at all?"

If the universe had a beginning, it must have a cause outside of itself. That cause must be timeless, spaceless and immaterial. That cause must also be supremely intelligent and supremely powerful. Sounds like the God of the Bible to me.....

This IS NOT a GOD OF THE GAPS argument!

Why? Because you cannot find a natural cause for all nature.

By definition, the cause of all nature, cannot be nature – it must be supernatural.

Dr. Robert Jastrow ended his book "God and the Astronomers" with these words: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."