Where Did the Universe Come From?

O <u>Video</u>: "Universe Designed Documentary"

O Read: Psalm 8:1-4

O Read: Genesis 1:1

O What two important things does the Bible's first verse tell us about the universe?

1.

2.

O <u>Video</u>: "The Bible Predicts the Expansion of the Universe"

Job 9:8:

[8] who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;

Zechariah 12:1:

[1] The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him:

Isaiah 40:22:

[22] It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

Isaiah 42:5:

[5] Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

Isaiah 44:24:

[24] Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb:"I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

Isaiah 45:12:

[12] I made the earth
and created man on it;
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,
and I commanded all their host.

Isaiah 48:13:

[13] My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.

Isaiah 51:12-13:

[12] "I, I am he who comforts you;
who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass,
[13] and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy?
And where is the wrath of the oppressor?

Jeremiah 10:12:

[12] It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

Jeremiah 51:15:

[15] "It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

Psalm 104:1-2:

[1] Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
[2] covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

- O In addition to Scripture, scientific findings also provide support that the universe is expanding and, therefore, had a beginning.
- O Video: "Kalam Cosmological Argument"
- O Q: Why do you think the question of whether the universe had a beginning is important in the discussion of the evidence for God's existence?
- O Q: If something begins to exist in the world, something else caused it to exist. We've never seen something come into existence by itself! For example, think about a car, a flower, and a puddle of water. What was the cause of each one that brought it into existence?

 A:
- O Q: If we know the universe had a beginning, and everything that begins to exist was caused to exist by something else, what do you think could have caused the universe to exist? To answer the question, think about what the cause would have to be like in order to be able to create everything in the world.

A:

A:

- "Such a high degree of design demonstrates that this entity must be a personally being
 with an amazing creativity, wisdom, power, care, and love to a degree far beyond human
 capabilities. He has fine-tuned the Milky Way galaxy, the solar system, and planet Earth
 so its spiritual life can be fused with physical life in this one small place for one brief span
 on our timeline." Hugh Ross, Journey Toward Cosmic Beginning
- O <u>Video</u>: "Beginning of the Universe" (Good video to watch and discuss with your children.)
- O Segue into next week's topic: "Where Did Life Come From?" and the fine-tuning of the universe...
 - "Over 200 fine-tuned cosmic characteristics (uncovered so far) are required for life to exist.
 The probability of all the parameters randomly coming together is 1 in 10²¹⁵ (scientifically deemed impossible)." Hugh Ross, Journey Toward Cosmic Beginning
 - "...a staggering number of factors must come together to sustain life. We need a just right planet, with a just right sun, placed in the just right location, of a just right spiral galaxy, with a just right mass, and the just right size (center) bulge. That even one planet in the galaxy could contain all of these features seems nothing less than miraculous." Hugh Ross, Journey Toward Cosmic Beginning

Additional resources for today's topic:

1) Website: reasons.org

2) Website: reasonablefaith.org

3) Book: Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel

4) Book: The Creator and the Cosmos by Hugh Ross

5) Documentary: Journey Toward Cosmic Beginning, Hugh Ross

6) Debate: Hugh Ross vs Peter Atkins - Debating the origins of the laws of nature by Premier Unbelievable?

7) Video: Two Reasons for the Beginning of the Universe by Cross Examined

8) Video: Why Can't the Universe Just Begin Without a Cause? by drcraigvideos