

Genesis, part 2 – The Beginning of the Universe

For many Americans, what the Bible says about how the world came into being represents a major obstacle in their coming to Jesus Christ.

We as followers of Christ **must** be able to show that the Bible's explanation for how the world came into being is at least possible.

"In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning, God . . ." Genesis 1:1a

"In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"Created" = "*bara*"

Only God can "*bara*" – people never "*bara*"

"*bara*" = "to create something out of nothing"

Genesis 1:1 is calling on us to believe that God personally, unilaterally and single-handedly created the universe and everything in it *ex nihilo* ("from nothing") – and that He did it in 6 twenty-four hour days.

"And there was evening and there was morning – day one." Genesis 1:5

"And there was evening . . . day two." Genesis 1:8

"Day" = "*yom*"

"*yom*" = "a literal 24-hour day"

One "morning" and one "evening" do not make an "eon" – they make a single day.

"The experts don't know for sure how old or how big the universe is. They don't know for sure what most of it is made of. They don't know for sure, in any detail, about how it began or how it will end.

And beyond our local cosmic neighbors, they don't know for sure very much about what it looks like."

"Unraveling the Universe" – Time magazine

- If a person admits the world was **created**, then they have to admit there is a **Creator**.
- If there is a **Creator**, He's obviously more powerful and awesome than we are.
- If He's that awesome and powerful, then we should be subject to Him and humble before Him.

These scientists can't accept any theory that involves "divine creation" because they are not willing to deal with a "divine Creator" in their personal life.

"What about the fact that almost no scientists in the world think that the Bible's account of creation can be right?"

"Scientists who utterly reject evolution maybe one of our fastest growing minorities in the scientific community. Many of these scientists hold impressive credentials in science." Science Digest

"The theological possibility that explains the origin of the universe is still certainly alive."

Dr. Wm. D. Hamilton Biologist, Oxford Univ.

"There is only one convincing answer for the intricate laws that exist in the natural world, and that is creation by an omnipotent, all-wise God." Dr. Henry Morganau, Physicist, Yale University in the book Cosmos, Bios, Theos

“The very fact that the universe is creative and that it has permitted complex structures to emerge and develop to the point of consciousness – in other words, the very fact that the universe has organized its own self-awareness, is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all. The impression of design is overwhelming.” Dr. Paul Davies, Physicist, Arizona State Univ.

“Published scientists with creationist beliefs are not uncommon.”
Dr. Ronald Numbers, Historian Univ. of Wisconsin

We have been duped into believing that every scientist in the world has bought into the evolutionary model of the universe and endorses it – this is simply not true!

“What about the age of the universe? The Bible presents the picture of a very young earth and yet scientists tell us that the world is billions of years old.”

The odds of human life developing on earth through evolution are so infinitesimally small – that the only way to make this even remotely possible – is to give it billions and billions of years to happen.

Two of the most common methods of calculating the age of the universe and earth are (1) radioactive dating and (2) the expanding universe.

#1 – Radioactive Dating = measuring the decay rates of carbon, uranium and other isotopes

Dr. Frederick Junemann – Physicist

“The age of our globe is presently thought to be some 4.5 billion years based upon radioactive decay rates of uranium and thorium.”

“There has been in recent years the horrible realization that radioactive decay rates are not as constant as previously thought, nor are they immune to environmental influences.”

“And what this means is that the atomic clocks may have to be reset when you consider that there may have been some global disaster.

“And that actually the events that brought the Mesozoic Age to a close may not have been 65 million years ago, but within the age and memory of man.”

“. . . the fountains of the great deep were opened up . . .” Genesis 7:11

If the Bible’s account of The Flood is true, we must understand (as Dr. Junemann said) that radioactive decay data is invalid, because we do not have a uniform, closed system going back to the earth’s origin.

#2 – The “expanding universe” approach

“Unraveling the Universe” – Time magazine

“Astronomers have known since Hubble’s heyday in the 1920’s that you only need two pieces of information to deduce the age of the universe.”

“You need to know how fast the galaxies are flying apart and how far away they are.”

“The ratio of these two numbers tells you how fast the cosmos is expanding and a simple calculation tells you how long it has been since the expansion started.”

“‘There are these two loopholes though,’ notes University of Oklahoma astrophysicist, Dr. David Branch, ‘What is the right distance and what is the right speed?’”

“These two loopholes are big enough to drive the Starship Enterprise through.”

There is a lot of evidence coming to light lately to indicate that the earth is actually quite young.

The man who devised the radioactive dating method in 1946 – Walter Libby – used it to calculate that the earth is only 30,000 years old!

“What about the ‘Big Bang Theory’ which seems to account pretty well for how the universe came into being?”

Dr. Robert Jastrow, Astronomer, Dartmouth Univ.

“Astronomers now find that they have painted themselves into a corner.”

“They have proven that the world began abruptly in an act of creation, to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, and every living thing in the cosmos and on earth. The scientists pursuit of the past ends in a moment of creation.”

“This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by everybody except the theologians.”

“What we see is that the evidence from astronomy leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world.”

“The essential elements in the astronomical model and the biblical account of Genesis are the same.”

“What about the fact that this planet is so perfectly suited for life?”

“Unraveling the Universe” – Time magazine

“One intriguing observation that has bubbled up from physics is that the universe seems calibrated for life’s very existence.”

“If, for example, the force of gravity were pushed upward just a tiny bit, stars would burn out faster leaving little time for life to evolve on the planets circling them.”

“If the relative masses of protons and neutrons were changed by a hair, stars would never be born, since the hydrogen they eat wouldn’t exist.”

“If, at the Big Bang, some basic numbers in the initial conditions had been jiggled just a tiny bit, matter and energy would never have coagulated into stars, planets or any other platform stable for life as we know it, and so on.”

Hugh Ross article – <http://mcleanbible.org/genesisarticle>

Probability = one chance in 10 to the 65th power

One chance in ten million, trillion, trillion, trillion!

Dr. Robert Jastrow

“For the astronomer, 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.”

“And as he pulls himself over the final rock he is greeted by a band of theologians, who have been sitting there for centuries and saying, ‘In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.’”

So What?

If there is a God the way Genesis, chapter 1 says – this means that we are not the victims of random fate or senseless events.

It means that there is a sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful, personal God who is running the whole show.

The reason Jill is in my life – is because an all-wise, loving God (with a perfect plan for both our lives) put her there!

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD, ‘plans for good and not for evil; plans to give you a future and a hope.’” Jeremiah 29:11

“See there – I told you so!”