

The Miracle of Creation: Believe it or Not!

Genesis 1:1-2, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."*

Sir Isaac Newton once had a miniature model of the solar system in his office. The sun was positioned in the center of the model with the various planets displayed in orbit around it. One day a fellow scientist walked into his study and when he saw it exclaimed, "My! What an exquisite thing this is! Who made it?" Sir Isaac Newton replied, "Nobody." The scientist looked amazed as he said skeptically, "You must think I am a fool. Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius." Sir Isaac Newton got up, walked around his desk, and put his hand on the shoulder of his friend as he said earnestly, "This thing is a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you and I know. I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker. Now tell me, by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusions?"¹

Hebrews 11:3 states, *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were created."*

"Evolutionary philosopher Herbert Spencer, one of Darwin's earliest and most enthusiastic advocates, outlined five "ultimate scientific ideas": time, force, action, space, and matter.² ...But Genesis 1:1 accounts for all of Spencer's categories. **"In the beginning"**—that's **time**. **"God"**—that's **force**. **"Created"**—that's **action**. **"The heavens"**—that's **space**. **"And the earth"**—that's **matter**. In the first verse of the Bible God laid out plainly what no scientist or philosopher cataloged until the nineteenth century. Moreover, what evolution still cannot possibly explain—the actual origin of everything that science can observe—the Bible explains in a few succinct words in the very first verse of Genesis."³

Who Believes What?⁴

- **Theist.** Believes that God created the universe but is not the universe.
- **Pantheist.** Thinks God is the world.
- **Atheist.** Maintains there is no God in the first place and all that is has occurred as a result of pure accident. While the theist says, "I know there is a God," the atheist says, "I know there is no God."
- **Agnostic.** Claims "I don't know if there is a God."
- **Deist.** Maintains that God created the universe and set up natural, scientific laws by which it runs but then disassociated himself from it.

¹ Anne Graham Lotz, *God's Story: Finding Meaning for Your Life through Knowing God* (Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1999), 3.

² Herbert Spencer, "First Principles" (London: Williams and Norgate, 1862), chapter 3.

³ John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning* (Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group, 2001), 40–41.

⁴ Norman Geisler and Randy Douglass, *Bringing Your Faith to Work* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 76.

The Universe That Began Requires a Beginner⁵

[Read Romans 1:19-20; Acts 14:14-15; Acts 17:22-24]

Here's the logic:

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
2. The universe had a beginning.
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause.

Up until the time of Albert Einstein, the world of science believed the universe was eternal, and atheists and evolutionists had great comfort. But since Einstein, five scientific discoveries have come to light that prove the universe did have a beginning, in what scientists call the "Big Bang." Though the Bible's account of creation does not line up with a naturalistic explanation without a creator (i.e. the Big Bang Theory), these scientific discoveries do point to the universe having a beginning, which adds proof to the Bible, and they spell **SURGE (for memory):**

S - Second Law of Thermodynamics.

This law states that the universe is running out of usable energy. One day the universe will simply run out of gas. What does this prove? If the universe had been running on its own energy from eternity, it would have been out of energy by now. But it has not, and so the universe must have begun in the distant (but not eternal) past. This law is also known as the law of entropy, which says that nature tends to come to disorder. Buildings deteriorate over time, fruit decays, our bodies get older and feeble. This law says the universe is like a wound clock running down. If it is running down then someone must have wound it up. Yet our world is still here, so the universe cannot be eternal, or we would have wound down (reached entropy) by now.

U - Universe Expanding.

In 1927 Edwin Hubble (namesake of the space telescope) discovered that the light from distant galaxies was redder than it should be. Hubble concluded that it was redder because the universe was growing apart - in short, expanding! The light from the galaxies was changing because it was moving away from us. Furthermore, he found that the light was expanding in all directions, which means that it all came from a single point. What does this prove? Scientifically, there once was nothing, and then all of a sudden, there was something - the universe suddenly came into being... There was no time, space or matter before the Big Bang, but all came into existence at that moment.

R - Radiation Echo from the Big Bang.

In 1965 two Bell Telephone Laboratory scientists discovered the radiation afterglow from the Big Bang. The light from the Big Bang is no longer visible, but the heat can still be detected. In 1948 scientists predicted that this radiation would exist if the Big Bang really did occur, and nearly twenty years later, it was discovered. This discovery confirmed that the universe is not eternal but had a beginning.

G - Great Galaxy Seeds.

If the Big Bang had occurred, then scientists believed we would see ripples in the temperature of the radiation discovered. In 1992 NASA's COBE satellite not only discovered the necessary ripples, but also found that the explosion and expansion of the universe were so precise that they allowed galaxy formation. Astronomer George Smoot, announcing COBE's findings, called these exact ripples the "machining marks of the creation of the universe" and the "fingerprints of the maker." But that's not all COBE discovered. COBE took pictures of the ripples (literally pictures of the past because of the time it takes for light from distant objects to reach us), and these infrared pictures point to matter that would form the galaxies, or "seeds" of the galaxies as they exist today. Once again, that which should have occurred if the Big Bang was true was found.

E - Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.

In 1916 Albert Einstein's calculations of his theory of general relativity revealed a definite beginning to all time, all matter and all space. This discovery was the beginning of the end for the idea that the universe was eternal. Einstein found his conclusion "irritating" because he wanted the universe to be eternal and self-existent rather than reliant on any outside cause. But this theory has been proven and is one of the strongest supports for the universe having a beginning, which makes it evident that there was a beginning.

⁵ This section taken from Norman Geisler and Randy Douglass, *Bringing Your Faith to Work* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 82-84.