

God has Spoken in Creation: Look Up

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Summer Series: *God has Spoken*

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Scripture Validates that God Speaks through His Creation

Psalm 19:1-4 ESV

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

His works are a reflection of His greatness

Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

The speech is perpetual. God speaks to us daily through His creation.

There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

It is not verbal speech, but no less real, and no less clear

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world

This nonverbal speech is global; it reaches all men regardless of language, education, location, or race.

Romans 1:19-20 ESV

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

God has placed enough evidence in his creation to prove to men that there is a God, He is all-powerful, and He is the Creator. People who deny God's existence and attributes do so, not because of a lack of evidence, but because "*they suppress the truth*" (Rom. 1:18). Therefore, God holds them accountable, "*they are without excuse*" (Rom 1:20)

Psalm 8:3-4 ESV

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, (4) what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

God is vast and infinite, as indicated by the vast and seemingly infinite universe, compared to man who is so small. The average distance between two stars is 30 trillion miles. The number of stars in the universe is approximately equal to the number of grains of sand on all the beaches in the entire world. The vastness of the universe is unfathomable. The atheist thinking of the immensity of the universe feels very small, and very lonely. He exists by accident on a piece of cosmic dust. The Christian, on the other hand, knows that the transcendent God who made it all is *mindful* and *cares* about Man, even the smallest details of his life.

The earth is only cosmic dust in terms of size. However, in terms of God's purposes it is the very center. God's Son died here and He will reign here, "*The dwelling place of God is with men*".

Hugh Ross Ph.D. (Astronomy) says, “*The anthropic principle says that the universe appears “designed” for the sake of human life. More than a century of astronomy and physics research yields this unexpected observation: the emergence of humans and human civilization requires physical constants, laws, and properties that fall within certain narrow ranges—and this truth applies not only to the cosmos as a whole but also to the galaxy, planetary system, and planet humans occupy. To state the principle more dramatically, a preponderance of physical evidence points to humanity as the central theme of the cosmos.”*

God Has Imbedded Spiritual Truth Into His creation

Light and darkness

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2Corinthians 4:6 ESV)

Just as in the original creation, there was darkness first and the light dispelled the darkness, so it is with the gospel. The light of the gospel dispels the moral and spiritual darkness in our hearts.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5 ESV)

Christ was the Light of the world that came to a people who walked in darkness.

The Sun

“Who being the brightness [radiance] of His glory” (Hebrews 1:3)

We cannot look at the sun in its full strength during the day. Its brightness is blinding. This parallels the glory of God. He dwells in inapproachable light. When Saul got a glimpse of the risen Christ on the Damascus road, he described it as, “*a light brighter than the sun*” (Acts 26:13). When Christ was transfigured before the three disciples on the mountain top Matthew writes, “*And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun*” (Matthew 17:2). The sun stands as a daily reminder that mortal man cannot look upon the Glory of God in its unveiled form.

The Heavens

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:11-12 ESV)

Just as the vastness of the universe is incomprehensible so is the love of God toward us.

Celestial Bodies

*His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. (Psalm 89:36 ESV) Like the moon it shall be established forever, **a faithful witness** in the skies." Selah. (Psalm 89:37 ESV)*

Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night.... If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever." (Jer 31:35, 36 ESV)

Kingdoms of men rise and fall, climates and landscapes change, but what have never changed are the rising and setting of the Sun and the monthly cycle of the Moon. God says my covenants and promises are as dependable as these faithful celestial bodies.

“Evidence that Demands a Verdict”

I want to turn the discussion now to two powerful lines of evidence that we can see when we *look up*, that point to an all wise and all powerful, supreme Creator. First, I want to look at the scientific evidence that the universe had a definite, sudden beginning out of nothing. This is called the **Cosmological Argument**. Second, I want look at scientific evidence that the universe is extremely fine-tuned to support life here on earth. This is called the **Anthropic Principle**.

Cosmological (*kosmos*, universe) Argument

How does the universe having a beginning argue for the existence of God—a Creator? Everything that has a **beginning** has a **cause**. If the universe had a beginning, it had to have Something, or Someone who caused it to begin. Something cannot come from nothing, as we know from the Law of Cause and Effect.

The Law of Cause and Effect is a fundamental law of science. Francis Bacon (the father of modern science) said, “True knowledge is knowledge by causes.” The renowned skeptic, David Hume, said, “I never asserted so absurd a proposition as that something could arise without a cause”. Science is the search for causes.

The Law of Cause and Effect is used in every field of knowledge: the doctor searches for the cause of the headaches; the psychologist looks for the cause of the deviant behavior; the historian will explore the factors that prompted World War II; the elder will consider what caused a brother to leave the assembly.

Let me give you a concrete example of the Law of Causality. Suppose tomorrow morning I wake up and find a dead horse in my backyard. Because I believe in the Law of Cause and Effect I am going to conclude that something caused the dead horse to be there. Maybe someone dragged it there, or it wandered into the yard on its own and died. I am not going to conclude that it just appeared. My children don’t always believe in the law of cause and effect. Often there is just no explanation for how the toys found their way unto the floor. They just appeared out of nowhere.

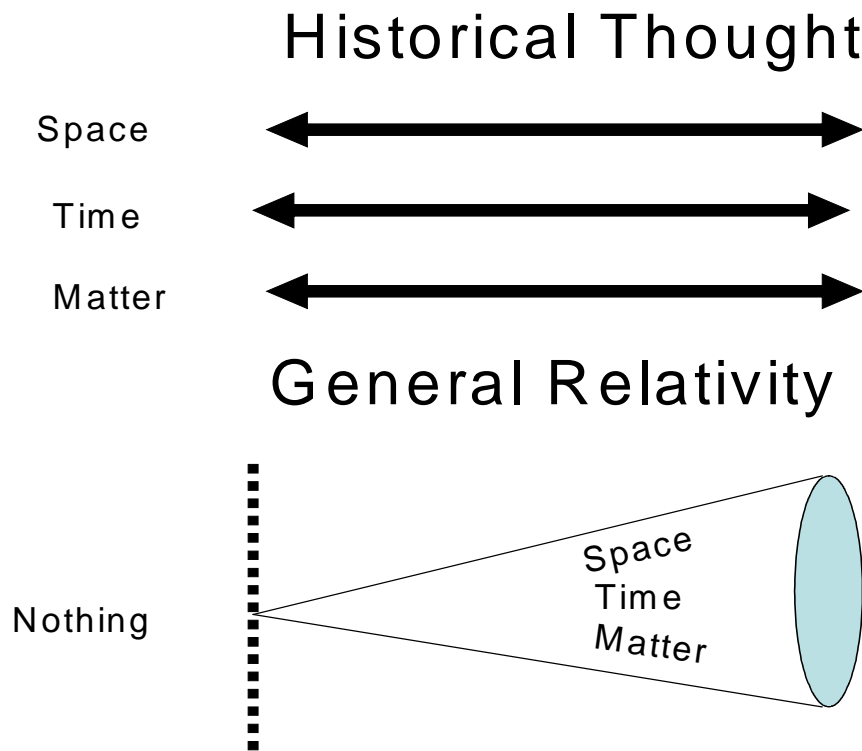
Coming back to our discussion about the universe, if the universe had a beginning then it must have had a cause. The question is did the universe have a beginning?

As far back as the ancient Greeks it was assumed that the universe was eternal. Up until the last century it was the general belief in secular science. There was nothing to indicate from science that the universe had a beginning. This thinking of course conflicts with Genesis 1:1, which states that, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” Therefore, the Bible was in direct conflict with scientific thinking at the time.

Around 1916 Albert Einstein didn't like what his calculations were pointing to. His theory of General Relativity showed that the universe had a definite beginning.

General Relativity has to do with the effect of gravitation on the shape of space and the flow of time. The theory shows that space, time and matter are interrelated so that they all began at the same time. We might intuitively think that space and time always existed, and God at a point in time, created matter and it filled up space. However, the theory of General Relativity shows that before matter there was no time and no space. They all began at the same moment. See illustration A.

Illustration A.



He called this discovery 'irritating'. Why? He wanted the universe to be self-existent. He didn't want the universe to be reliant on an outside Cause. In fact, this idea was so 'irritating' that he introduced a constant into his calculations so that it didn't point back to a definite beginning. What he really did was fudge the numbers. He later called this fudging the greatest blunder of his life.

In 1919 Cosmologist Aurther Eddington confirmed the theory of General Relativity through an experiment during a solar eclipse. He had a similar dislike for the implications. He wrote, "Philosophically, the notion of a beginning of the present order of nature is repugnant to me...I should like to find a genuine loophole."

What other evidences are there that the universe had a definite beginning?

Expansion of the universe. The universe is expanding. It is not expanding into space, space itself is expanding. Now if you put this expansion in reverse (like playing a movie backwards) then the universe shrinks down, not to the size of our galaxy, not to the size earth, not to the size of a basketball, or a pinhead, but to nothing. Therefore, there was nothing (no space, time or matter) then there was a 'BIG BANG,' and then there was something.

Big Bang. Once it was established that there was scientific evidence that the universe had a definite beginning, and it began with a great surge of energy, this term Big Bang was coined to describe this beginning. Evolutionary scientist would claim that it was all random chance. We know that that it was not random chance, but God creating the heavens and the earth by the word of His power, *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”* (Hebrews 11:3)

General Relativity predicted the expanding universe and in the 1920's, Edwin Hubble looked through a telescope and confirmed that the universe is expanding from a single point.

Radiation (heat) from the initial 'BANG' or beginning. If there was a sudden beginning then scientist predicted that there should be heat from the Big Bang. Sure enough, in the 1960s this heat was detected at Bell Labs in New Jersey.

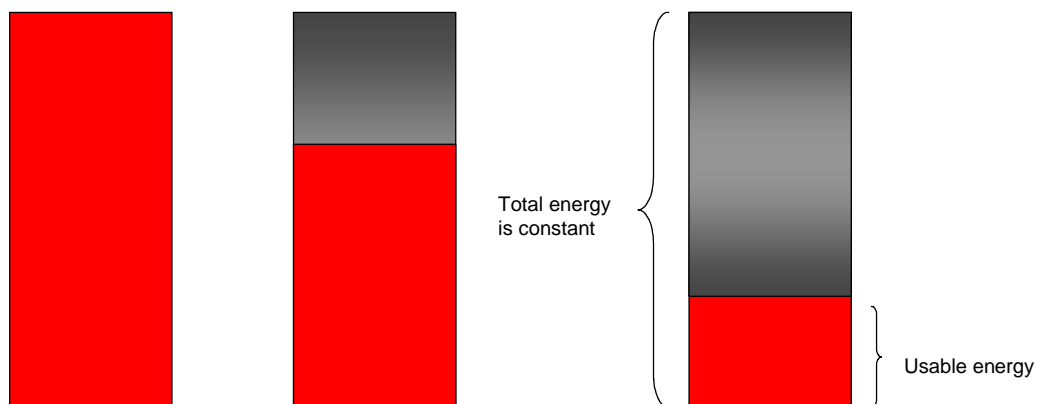
Ripples. Another prediction was made if the Big Bang occurred. There would be slight variations (ripples) in the temperature of the cosmic background radiation. In 1992 The COBE satellite confirmed these ripples. These ripples were extremely precise. They showed that the expansion of the universe to be extremely precise so that the matter would group together to form the galaxies. If there had been the slightest variation, the universe would not have formed as it did. Norman Geisler says, “None of us would be here to tell about it.”

2nd Law of Thermodynamics. The universe is running down. It is running out of usable energy. The 1st Law of Thermodynamics states that the amount of energy in the universe is constant. The 2nd Law states that the amount of useable energy is depleting. Eventually the universe will run out of useable energy, because the amount of energy is constant, and usable energy is not being replaced. If the universe was eternal the useable energy would have been gone by now. It's like your flashlight. You have a finite amount of battery power. If you turn your flashlight on and leave it on all day, by evening it is going have less life left. Eventually it will burn out. Why hasn't the energy in the universe been used up if it has existed forever?

Illustration B.

1st Law of Thermodynamics: *total amount of energy in the universe is constant*

2nd Law of Thermodynamics: *amount of useable energy is depleting*



The Verdict

So what does all this prove? Without opening the Bible, merely by ‘looking up,’ we can see, as Romans 1 puts it, “*His eternal power and divine nature.*” The reasoning goes like this:

Premise 1: Everything that has a beginning has a cause (Law of Cause and Effect—something cannot come from nothing)

Premise 2: The universe had a beginning (scientific evidence)

Conclusion: The universe had a Cause (rational conclusion)

Something from Nothing. How can ‘nothing’ explode? If you are an evolutionist you have to believe that ‘nothing’ exploded. What is ‘nothing’? Plato said, “Nothing is what rocks dream about.” If space, time and matter all began at the same instance, then none of these things were parts of the first cause. Matter includes all the elements in the Periodic Table, it includes the energy in the universe, and it includes the laws of nature. Therefore, scientist can’t use any of these things to explain how the universe came into being because they didn’t exist. The First Cause had to be an immaterial, supremely powerful, wise, eternal Being that is outside of universe altogether. This exactly aligns with Romans 1:19-20 ESV “*For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*” And it aligns with Hebrews 11:3 ESV “*By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*”

Anthropic Principle

The Anthropic Principle says that universe is extremely finely tuned in order to sustain human life on earth. The universe is a very hostile environment for human life. The earth is like a little one-of-a-kind tiny oasis where the conditions for life are just ideal. There are well over 100 anthropic constants that scientist have discovered that are very finally tuned and interrelated. They are essential for sustaining life. How do these anthropic constants point to a Creator? They demonstrate amazing design and purpose for human life. To imagine that these all line up by random chance is preposterous. Wherever we discover complex design, we know that there is an intelligent designer behind it. Let’s take a look at some of these anthropic constants¹:

- sun’s distance from center of galaxy
 - *if greater:* not enough heavy elements to make rocky planets
 - *if less:* stellar density and radiation would be too great
- sun’s mass
 - *if greater:* luminosity output from the sun would not be sufficiently stable

- *if less*: range of distances appropriate for life would be too narrow; tidal forces would disrupt the rotational period for earth
- sun's color
 - *if redder*: insufficient photosynthesis
 - *if bluer*: also insufficient photosynthesis
- earth's surface gravity
 - *if stronger*: earth's atmosphere would retain huge amounts of ammonia and methane
 - *if weaker*: earth's atmosphere would lose too much water
- earth's distance from sun
 - *if farther away*: too cool for a stable water cycle
 - *if closer*: too warm for a stable water cycle
- thickness of the earth's crust
 - *if thicker*: too much oxygen would be transferred from the atmosphere to the crust
 - *if thinner*: volcanic and tectonic activity would be too great
- earth's rotation period (24 hrs)
 - *if longer*: temperature differences would be too great
 - *if shorter*: atmospheric wind velocities would be too great
- gravitational interaction with the moon
 - *if greater*: tidal effects on the oceans, atmosphere, and rotational period would be too severe
 - *if less*: earth's orbital obliquity would change too much causing climatic instabilities
- magnetic field
 - *if stronger*: electromagnetic storms would be too severe
 - *if weaker*: no protection from solar wind particles
- axial tilt (23-degrees)
 - *if greater*: surface temperature differences would be too great
 - *if less*: surface temperature differences would be too great
- albedo (ratio of reflected light to total amount falling on surface)
 - *if greater*: runaway ice age would develop
 - *if less*: runaway greenhouse effect would develop
- oxygen to nitrogen ratio in atmosphere
 - *if larger*: life functions would proceed too quickly
 - *if smaller*: life functions would proceed too slowly
- carbon dioxide and water vapor levels in atmosphere
 - *if greater*: runaway greenhouse effect would develop (we'd all burn up)
 - *if less*: insufficient greenhouse effect (plants would not maintain efficient photosynthesis and we'd all suffocate)
- ozone level in atmosphere
 - *if greater*: surface temperatures would become too low
 - *if less*: surface temperatures would be too high; too much uv radiation at the surface
- atmospheric electric discharge rate
 - *if greater*: too much fire destruction
 - *if less*: too little nitrogen fixing in the soil
- seismic (earthquake) activity
 - *if greater*: destruction of too many life-forms
 - *if less*: nutrients on ocean floors would not be uplifted

What Can be Known About God Through His Creation

Without picking up the Bible what could we **know** (prove beyond a reasonable doubt) about the character of God—the Creator, the First Cause?

1. He is outside of His creation and therefore He is timeless, non-spatial, and immaterial (since time, space and matter came from the First Cause). He also must be self-existent, eternal and thus infinite.
2. Extremely powerful to create such a massive universe out of nothing.
3. Supremely wise since He created a universe with complexity, beauty, order and precision.
4. He must be personal, because He chose to create something out of nothing. Impersonal forces don't make choices.

*“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For **his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature**, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” Romans 1:19-20 ESV*

ⁱ Adapted from *Design and the Anthropic Principle* by Hugh Ross, Ph.D.
<http://www.reasons.org/resources/apologetics/design.shtml>