

The Word@ZPC

The Case for God in an Anti-God World

Intelligent Design

The Darwinist Dilemma

May 6, 2009

The question before us:

*Has Darwinism made belief in God irrelevant, or is it just
a new philosophical option masquerading as scientific fact?*

A Half Dozen Scientific Realms in Which We Must Test the Validity of Theism

Our focus this evening:

<i>Cosmology</i>	How did the universe begin?
<i>Physics</i>	Is the cosmos uniquely fine-tuned for human life?

Our focus next week:

<i>Biology</i>	What accounts for the complexity of molecular systems?
<i>Paleontology</i>	Does the fossil record affirm Darwinism?

And our concluding time together:

<i>Origins</i>	Under what circumstances did life appear?
<i>Anthropology</i>	What is the origin of human consciousness?

The Original Naturalistic Recipe: Chance Events Combined With Loads of Time

Darwin's theory was based on an assumption of _____.

Recent evidence against an infinitely old universe has jolted naturalists.

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity (1916)

His equations predicted an expanding universe.

One of the implications was a universe with _____

Einstein “fudged” his data to fit the assumption of an infinitely old cosmos.

A century of confirmations:

- (1925) Georges Lemaitre proposes idea of a creation explosion.
- (1929) Edwin Hubble observes the “red shifts” (retreat) of all galaxies.
- (1946) George Gamow declares a “hot start” alone could form elements.
- (1965) Penzias & Wilson detect radiation left over from an explosion.
- (1992) COBE satellite confirms “cool & uniform” temperature everywhere.

It is the discovery of the century, if not of all time. (Stephen Hawking)

The significance of this cannot be overstated.

They have found the Holy Grail of cosmology. (Michael Turner, astrophysicist)

What we have found is evidence of the birth of the universe.

It's like looking at God. (George Smoot, COBE project leader)

What is the Big Bang?

Astronomer Fred Hoyle coined the term in the 1950s to ridicule the idea.

There are numerous Big Bang theories, but all include three elements:

- (1) A beginning to everything that happened a _____ time ago.
- (2) A continuous, universal cosmic _____
- (3) A cosmic _____ from an extremely hot initial state.

In short, the Big Bang was an immensely powerful release of matter, energy, space and time – all governed by finely tuned physical constants.

- At creation, ten space-time dimensions (nine space, one time) instantly and transcendently appear.
- They occupy much less space than in the dot on this letter “i.”
- At 10 (-43) seconds, six of the nine space dimensions cease expanding.
- Theoreticians believe that six tiny dimensions remain tightly wrapped around the three remaining space dimensions.
- By the time the universe is 20 seconds old, nuclear fusion has transformed matter into about 75% hydrogen and 25% helium.
- Many of the earliest stars are super-giants; they burn through their solar fuel rapidly (well, within the first 10 billion years) and then explode, leaving “star ash” all over the universe to serve as components for planets, dust clouds, and nebulae.

- The universe is now 72% hydrogen, 25% helium, and 3% metals.
- The earth forms about this time, perhaps 5 billion years ago, along with a new generation of slow-burning stars like our sun.
- Life appears suddenly on earth during a tiny window of time (about 40 million years) between 3.86 and 3.9 billion years ago.
- At 3.5 billion years ago, the earth is teeming with diverse life, including most of the orders that exist today.

The Hubble Space Telescope has helped us create a Big Bang Picture Album.

At the far reaches of the universe, we are looking _____

Just as predicted, the universe is _____ the farther out one goes.

In February 2003 astronomers achieved confirmation that the cosmos is approximately _____% “exotic” matter.

What Are the Implications?

For Christians, this news powerfully confirms the testimony of Scripture.

The Bible eleven times describes the universe as “stretched out.”
(note Job 9:8; Psalm 104:2; Isaiah 40:22)

The Big Bang is *not* anti-biblical or *pro*-blind chance, but is the most powerful scientific evidence for _____

For Darwinists, this news has been jarring. Many Christians fail to realize that numerous scientists and astronomers want the Big Bang **not** to be true.

Philosophically the notion of a beginning of the present order of Nature is repugnant. I should like to find a genuine loophole. (Cosmologist Sir Arthur Eddington)

(1) The Big Bang seems to demand _____.

(2) The Big Bang leaves insufficient _____ for Darwinism.

(3) Furthermore, more than 70 different kinds of evidence indicate that we live on a “just right” planet orbiting a “just right” sun in a “just right” universe that could not be anything other than what it is for life to exist.

The rational conclusion that we should draw from the evidence is that Someone proposed that we should live. (Astronomer Hugh Ross)

But Darwinists Are Not Without Motivation...and Alternative Theories

There is a kind of religion in science; it is the religion of a person who believes there is order and harmony in the Universe. Every event can be explained in a rational way as the product of some previous event; every effect must have its cause; there is no First Cause...

This religious faith of the scientist is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning under conditions in which the known laws of physics are not valid, and as a product of forces or circumstances we cannot discover. When that happens, the scientist has lost control. If he really examined the implications, he would be traumatized.

(Agnostic astronomer Robert Jastrow)

Option A: The Steady State Universe (Fred Hoyle and others, 1948)

“Matter itself is continually creating new matter.”

The idea has now been debunked, especially when research showed that all galaxies were created at about the same time.

Option B: The Oscillating or Bouncing Universe (proposed about 1965)

“The mass of the universe acts as a brake; it slows down the expansion and then sends the cosmos back to a Big Crunch.”

Research confirms there isn't nearly enough mass to stop expansion.

Option C: Quantum Magic (currently being discussed)

“Perhaps the universe created itself by simply popping into existence.”
Some theorize the universe exists only because we _____ it.

Such speculations have no factual basis of any kind.

Option D: An Extraordinary Mechanism (current examples abound)

“Before 10⁻⁴³ seconds, the laws of physics were somehow different.”

This is Stephen Hawking's proposal in *A Brief History of Time*.

Einstein and Hawking hoped to discover a “unified field theory.”

“Multiple universes bubbled up at the Big Bang; ours is only one.”

By definition, it will forever be impossible to verify such a claim.

The best explanation for such a mechanism is _____.

Option E: The Final Anthropic Principle

“The universe is evolving to become the Creator-God, who is then (or would that be *now?*) generating the cosmos backwards.”

Justifiably, some call this the *Completely Ridiculous Anthropic Principle*.

The Overwhelming Impression of Design

About 50 years ago, scientists began to grasp the large number of physical constants that are perfectly tuned for the existence of human life.

Just about everything in the physical universe is balanced on the razor’s edge.

Through my scientific work I have come to believe more and more strongly that the physical universe is put together with an ingenuity so astonishing that I cannot accept it merely as a brute fact. (Once-skeptical physicist Paul Davies)

The universe in some sense must have known we were coming.
(Physicist Freeman Dyson)

If the entire universe were marked off in inches, the precise balance required for the strength of gravity would be overturned by shifting less than _____.

The *cosmological constant* (the force that balances the expansion vs. implosion of the universe) is tuned to one part in 10 followed by _____ zeroes.

Combine just those two numbers, and precision required for the cosmos to exist requires more zeroes than the total number of _____.

Our Just-Right Planet

Naturalistic scientists used to gush that life was likely to turn up in just about every corner of the universe.

Carl Sagan estimated _____ life-bearing planets in our galaxy alone.

Now we know that our planet, our sun, our moon, and even our place in our particular kind of galaxy is exceedingly rare.

We are ideally situated to be protected from cosmic _____.

The Earth must sustain an exquisite balance in its nitrogen, water, carbon, and oxygen cycles.

Ours is the only planet (to date) where water is both liquid and ice.

Strategically, the planet _____ is taking numerous hits for us.

Plate tectonics (driven by an underground furnace of radioactive components) is one of the most important keys to life on Earth.

“We were just incredibly lucky. Somebody had to win the big lottery, and we were it.”
(Geologist Peter Ward and astronomer Donald Brownlee, *Rare Earth*)

But didn't Copernicus' discoveries “prove” that humanity is essentially irrelevant?

Instead of relegating Earth to the dust heap, Copernicus actually overturned Aristotle's notion that the Earth was the cosmic _____.

Scientists at the time felt led to put _____ at the center of it all.

Compelling Conclusions

- (1) The evidence for the God of Scripture is more stunning and open for examination than ever (Romans 1:20).
- (2) This God is astounding indeed (existing in at least _____ dimensions).
- (3) The laws of nature are uniquely “discoverable” by our level of intelligence.
- (4) The Earth is ideally situated for _____ to take place.
- (5) It can be argued that the entire cosmos exists in its present vastness and complexity just so human beings can have an ideal place to live.

Even more significantly, God chose to live amongst us here.
(John 1:1, 14)

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