

Where did the Universe Come From?

Q#1 Where did the Universe come from?

Ex nihilo or ex material?

“It takes more faith to be a non-Christian than it does to be a Christian.” – Frank Turek & Norm Geisler¹

Q# Is this claim evidentially warranted?

¹ Norm Geisler & Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* (Crossway: Wheaton, 2004), 24.

**1) Ex nihilo or ex material? –
Where did the Universe come
from?**

Two responses to the question of the Universe:

A. Universe is eternal/static universe

- Aristotle

- Pre-Hubble science

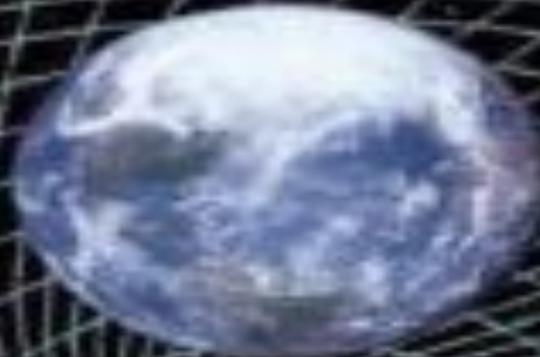
B. Universe began to exist at some point in the past





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Expanding Universe



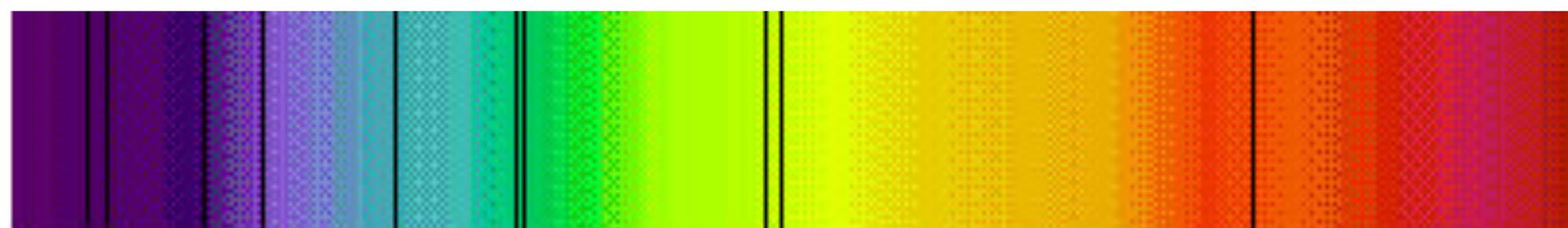
- Years ago people thought the Universe was eternal but most scientists no longer hold that position for two reasons:
 1. Entropy – the Universe is running down.
 2. Expanding Universe – Hubble telescope (14 verses in the Bible about the Universe expanding).

- Observational Scientific view: The Universe began at some point in the past
 - Ernest Hubble
 - Albert Einstein (reluctantly)
 - Everyone who believes in the Big Bang (that the Universe had a beginning)

Scientific Argument #1: The Big Bang Cosmology

The big bang theory of the origin of the universe indicates the universe had a beginning.

» One relevant piece of empirical data: the red shift of light from distant galaxies indicates that the universe is expanding.



moving toward you: blueshift



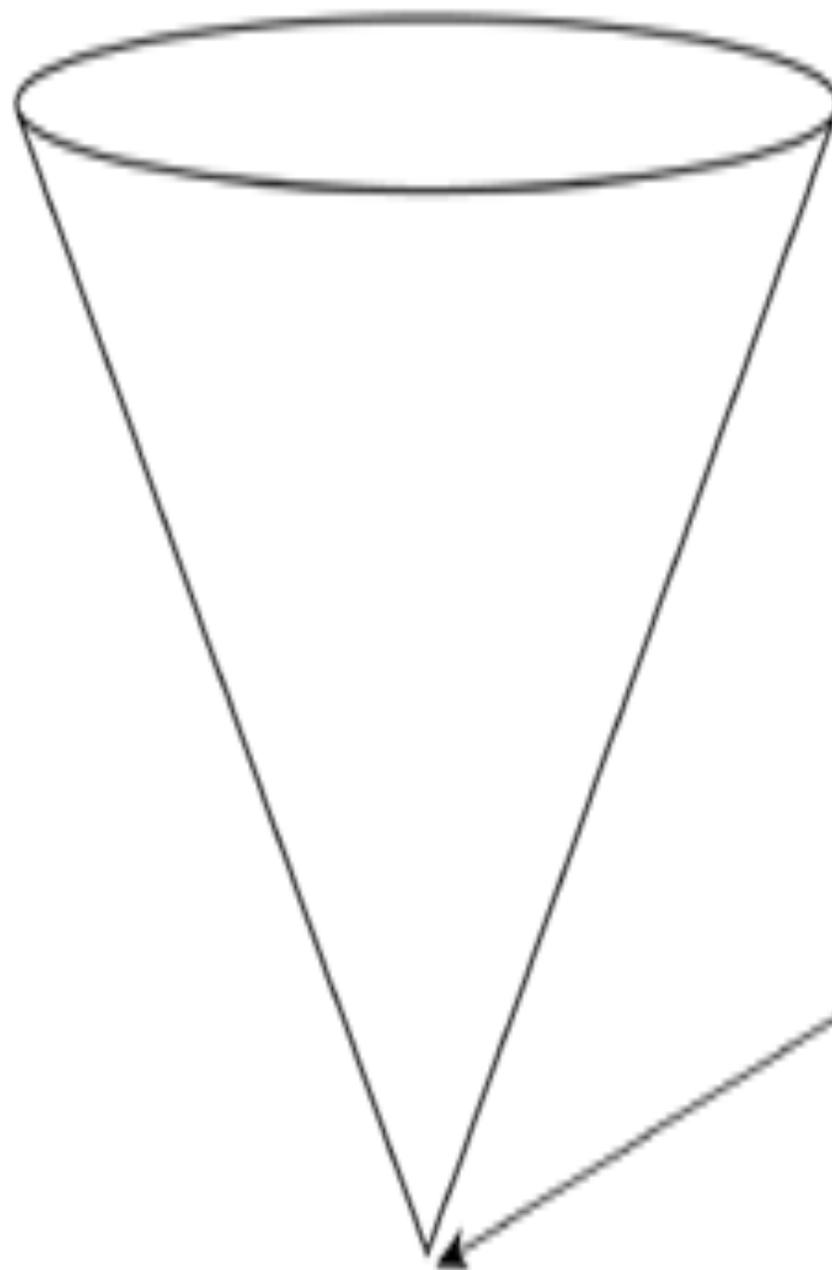
at rest



moving away from you: redshift

Objection #1: we can adopt an oscillating universe model (the main rival to big bang theory).

- » *Reply #1: no known physics describing a Bang-Crunch transition*
- » *Reply #2: no known physics describing a Crunch-Bang transition*
- » *Reply #3: the second law of thermodynamics is against a 100% efficient bang-crunch-bang transition.*
- » *Reply #4: there couldn't have been an actually infinite number of past cycles, because of problems with an actual infinite.*



Initial
cosmological
singularity



- Objection #2: “The idea of an absolute beginning to time is inconceivable” (Welty).

Scientific Argument #2: The Second Law of Thermodynamics

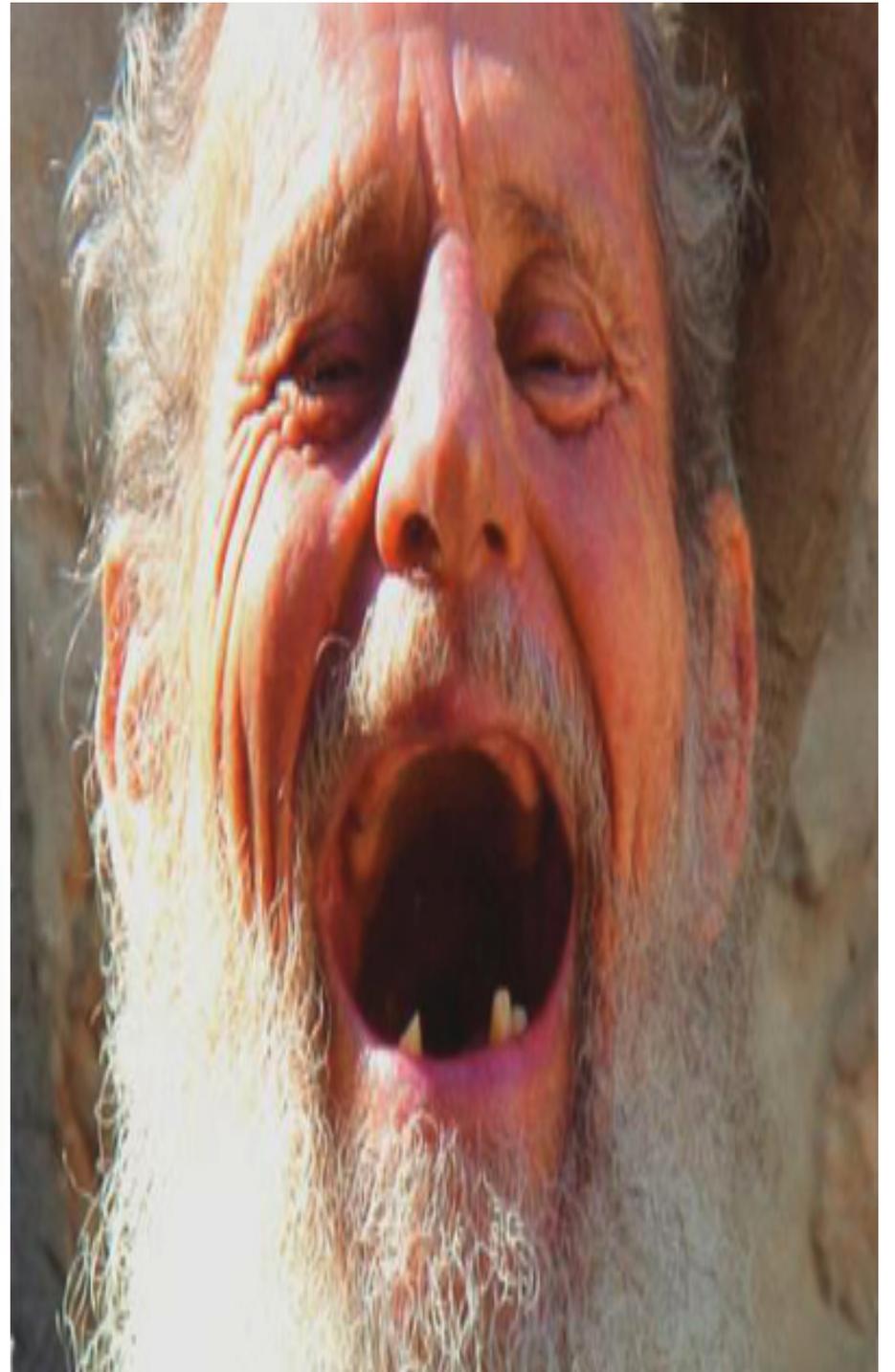
The Argument

- » The entropy of the universe is increasing. “The universe is moving irreversibly toward a state of maximum disorder and minimum energy”
- » But since a state of maximum entropy has not yet been reached, the universe has not been here forever”
- Objection: the second law of thermodynamics does not apply to an infinite universe, and the universe is infinite.²
*Circular reasoning?

² (Scientific argument 1 & 2 are credited to, Dr. Greg Welty, PHREL 4373 Christian Apologetics, SWBTS)

The Second Law of Thermodynamics - Entropy

Illustrated...



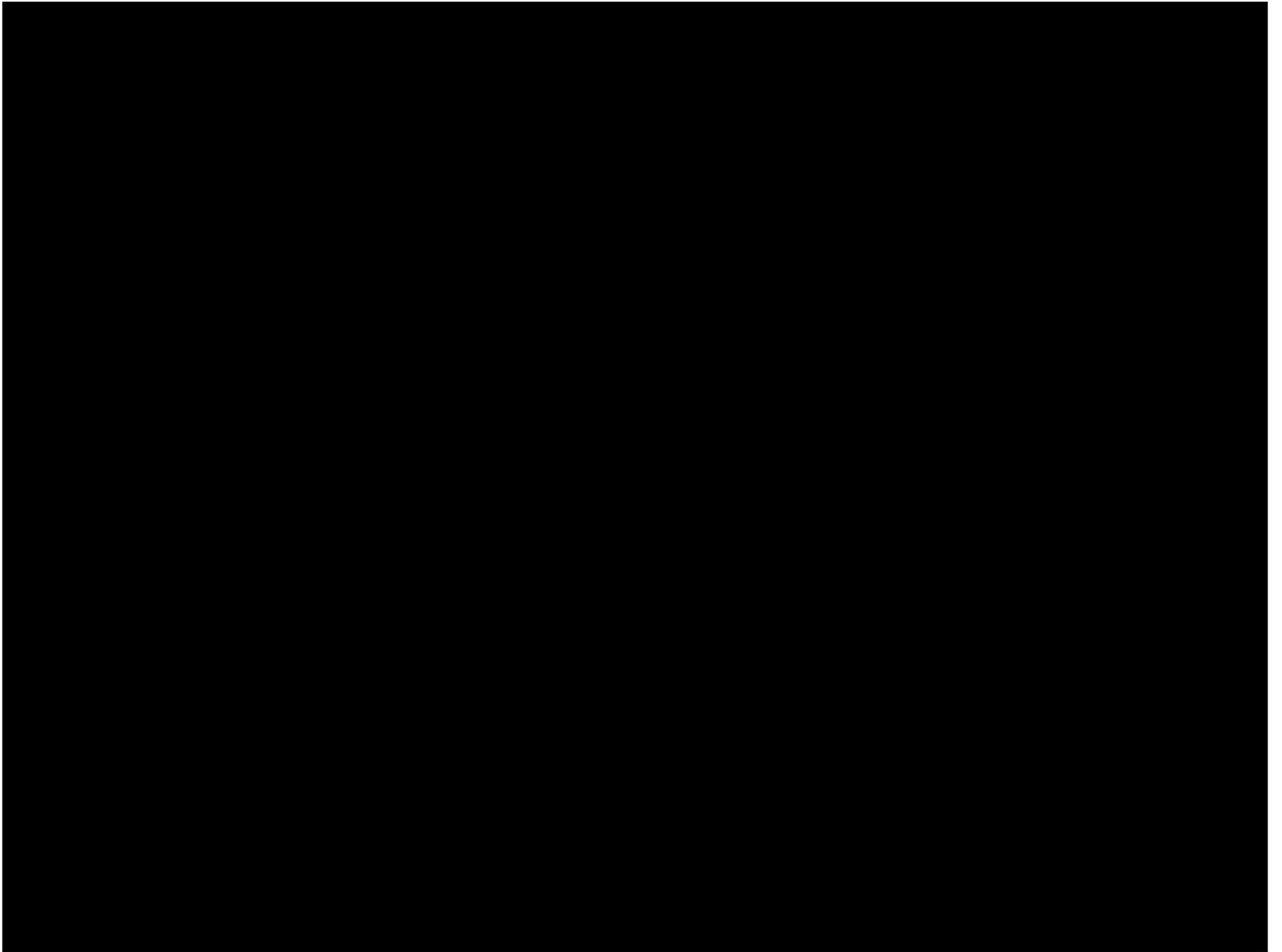
*“If the universe is unwinding,
then it was wound up.”² -
Norman Geisler*

³ Norman L. Geisler & Thomas Howe, *Making Sense of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009), 32.

Kalam Cosmological Argument

1. WHATEVER BEGINS TO EXIST HAS A CAUSE
2. THE UNIVERSE BEGAN TO EXIST
3. THEREFORE, A CAUSE OF THE UNIVERSE EXISTS/THE UNIVERSE HAS A CAUSE

(Dr. William Lane Craig)



What was the “Cause”?

- 1) Matter?
- 2) “Something” not governed by Entropy

Kalam Cosmological Argument

- a) *Argument for God as the cause: deducing the traditional divine attributes (J.P. Moreland/William Lane Craig, 479)*
- i) The cause is immutable and spiritual.
 - ii) The cause is without beginning or cause.
 - iii) There is only one cause (Ockham's Razor '*postulates must not be multiplied without necessity*') (monotheism).
 - iv) The cause is unimaginably powerful.
 - v) The cause is personal.

Genesis 1:1 Hebrew

11 בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

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

The Bible clearly teaches that:

- The Universe had a beginning
- It was God who brought the Universe into existence

Q#2 When did it happen? - Age of the Universe

Position 1: Young Earth

1. Hebrew word *yom* “day”
2. “Evening and morning” (Gen. 1:5,8,13,19,23,31)
3. Days of creation were numbered (only when used with 24 hour periods in the Bible)
4. Exodus 20:11 literal workweek (6 *yom*)
5. Impossible for life to survive for millions of years between Day 3 and Day 4 w/o light (Gen. 1:11, 14).³

3. Adapted from, Norman L. Geisler & Thomas Howe, *Making Sense of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation*, 33-34.

Position 1: Young Earth

6. Natural reading of the text is literal days

Difficulties with this view:

- Starlight and time (millions of light years away)

*Russell D. Humphreys *Starlight and Time*

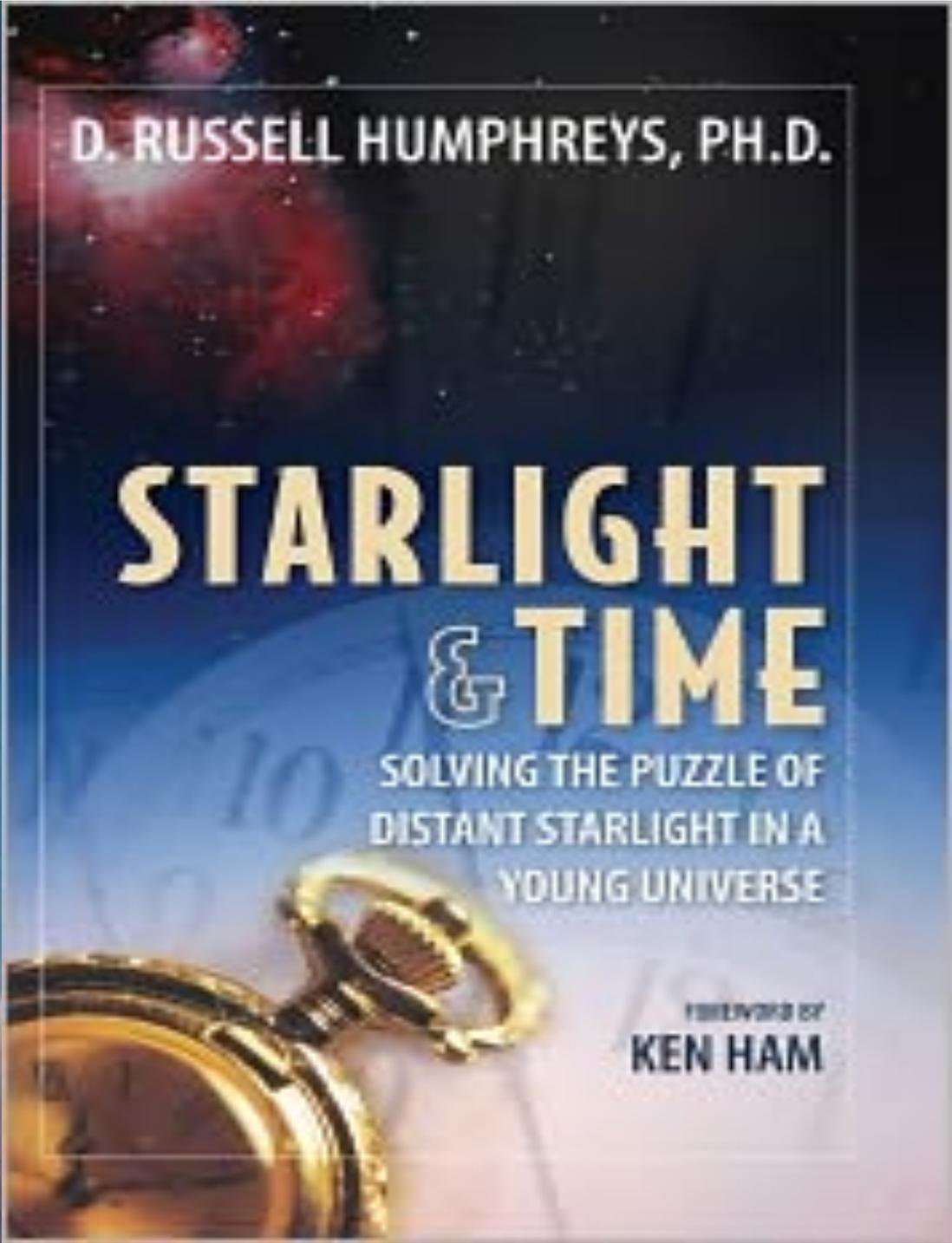


D. RUSSELL HUMPHREYS, PH.D.

STARLIGHT & TIME

SOLVING THE PUZZLE OF
DISTANT STARLIGHT IN A
YOUNG UNIVERSE

FOREWORD BY
KEN HAM



Position 2: Old Earth

1. Days are figurative, not literal
2. *Yom* used in Genesis 2:4 for the six-day period of creation.
3. 3rd day, trees grow to maturity in one *yom* (1:11-12)
4. Adam's activities on the 6th day (naming animals, can't find a match, loses a rib, gets a wife)⁴

3. Adapted from, Norman L. Geisler & Thomas Howe, *Making Sense of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation*, 33-34.

Position 2: Old Earth

Difficulties with this view

- Seems to rely on scientific hypotheses before the Bible as a kind of higher authority.
- Possibly troubling hermeneutic (system of interpreting the Bible)
- Scientific Theory over Sacred Truth

Charles Spurgeon, *How to Meet the Evils of the Age*

“We are invited, brethren, most earnestly to go away from the old-fashioned belief of our forefathers because of the supposed discoveries of *science*. What is science? The method by which man tries to conceal his ignorance. It should not be so, but so it is. You are not to be dogmatical in theology, my brethren, it is wicked; but for scientific men, it is the correct thing. You are never to assert anything very strongly;

Charles Spurgeon, *How to Meet the Evils of the Age*

but scientists may boldly assert what they cannot prove, and may demand a faith far more credulous than any we possess. Forsooth, you and I are to take our Bibles, and shape and mould our belief according to the ever-shifting teachings of so-called scientific men. What folly is this! Why, the march of science, falsely so-called, through the world, may be traced by exploded fallacies and abandoned theories.

Charles Spurgeon, *How to Meet the Evils of the Age*

Former explorers, once adored, are now ridiculed; the continual exposure of false hypotheses is a matter of universal notoriety. You may tell where the learned have encamped by the *debris* left behind of suppositions and theories as plentiful as broken bottles. As the quacks, who ruled the world of medicine in one age, are the scorn of the next, so has it been, and so will it be, with your atheistical *savants* and pretenders to science.

Charles Spurgeon, *How to Meet the Evils of the Age*

But they remind us of *facts*. Are they not yet ashamed to use the word? Wonderful *facts*, made to order, and twisted to their will to overthrow the actual facts which the pen of God Himself has recorded!”⁵ - Charles Spurgeon, *How to Meet the Evils of the Age*

5 C.H. Spurgeon, *The Sword and the Trowel*, 1877, p.197. Cited in, Ken Ham, *The Revised and Expanded Answers Book*, Edited by Don Batten (Green Forest, AR: 2002), 35-36.

Also available at: <http://www.spurgeon.org/misc/aarm04.htm>

-Interpretation, not Inspiration-

“There is no demonstrated contradiction of fact between Genesis 1 and science. There is only a conflict of interpretation...but in either case it is not a question of the inspiration of Scripture, but of the interpretation of Scripture (and of the scientific data).⁶ - Norman Geisler

6 Norman L. Geisler & Thomas Howe, *Making Sense of Bible Difficulties: Clear and Concise Answers from Genesis to Revelation*, 34-35.

Genesis 1:1 Hebrew

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Questions?

Supplementary Material

*For those wishing to delve deeper into the issue of Cosmology and the Genesis creation account, the following two pages are provided to provide a succinct treatment of the Genesis creation account as well as the various views. These charts are from, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* by Paul Enns (Moody: Chicago, 1989). May God give you light as you search for Truth! Those who seek will find.*

- Pastor Jeff

*Q#3 What about the relation of the
Genesis creation account and the
Enuma Elish?*

Comparison of Biblical and Babylonian Creation Accounts

Chart 26

Genesis Account	Enuma Elish
God is seen as ultimate source of power; He transcends His creation.	Magic incantations are ultimate source of power; the gods are subject to nature. III. 10 1; IV. 1-26, 91 *
Organized coverage of creation; systematically includes general realms of nature.	Does not include creation of vegetation, animals or light - the existence of these is assumed. Moon and stars created but not the sun. V. 2-22
Purpose: Praise to God as Lord of creation; acknowledging Him as such. A tribute to God's ultimacy and authority.	Purpose: Hymn of praise to Marduk as champion and mightiest of the gods. Creation is incidental. VI. 100ff.
Begins before things as we know them existed (Gen. 1: 1); as God created, He gave names. Genesis 1:5, 8, 10	Begins before heaven and earth were named; cannot imagine situation before they existed 1.1-2
Starts with primeval deep. Hebrew: teho, Genesis 1:2	Starts with the deep - fresh water (Apsu) and salt water (Tiamat - cognate of tehom) 1.3-4
Creation given time sequence; set in blocks by "days." Genesis 1:5. 8. 13. etc.	No chronological structure of "days."

<p>“days.” Genesis 1:5. 8. 13. etc.</p>	
<p>Creation by speech. Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 20</p>	<p>Creation from formerly existing matter. IV. 137-140; VI. 33</p>
<p>Waters separated above and below by firmament. Genesis 1: 6-8</p>	<p>Corpse of Tiamat divided in two and set up as waters above and below. IV. 137-140</p>
<p>Man created to rule creation. Genesis 1:28</p>	<p>Man created to do the service of the gods so the gods wouldn't have to work so hard. VI. 8, 34</p>
<p>Man created from the soil. Genesis 2:7</p>	<p>Man created from blood of slain hero (kingu). VI. 33</p>

* Enuma Elish references designate tablet number and line.

Paul Copan

- “John Walton says that the similarities between Mesopotamian cosmogonies and the Bible are superficial rather than substantial: It is difficult to discuss comparisons between Israelite and Mesopotamian literature concerning creation because the disparity is so marked...

The key differences Walton sees are (1) theogony vs. cosmogony, (2) polytheism vs. monotheism, and (3) organization vs. creative act. Additionally, there is a difference in style, not only content. Kenneth Kitchen has pointed out the contrast between the simple creation account in Genesis and the more elaborate ANE creation epics. As a general rule of thumb, the simpler the earlier: Simple accounts or traditions may give rise (by accretion or embellishment) to elaborate legends, but not vice versa.”⁷

⁷ Kenneth Kitchen, *Ancient Orient and the Old Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1966), 89 (and note). Cited in, Paul Copan, “Creation ex Nihilo or ex Materia? A Critique of the Mormon Doctrine of Creation” *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 09:2 (Summer 2005), 35-36.

Basic Elements in The Creation Account

Chart 24

Thesis: God created the Universe ex nihilo

Chaos: Waste and void, darkness on the deep of the original creation material

Creation: Spirit of God hovering over the face of the water and creatively bringing order out of the disorganized material

Day 1: Light out of darkness, day and night separated

Day 2: Waters above and below separated: heaven

Day 3: Seas gathered and dry land appears: vegetation

Day 4: Heavenly luminaries formed to rule and divide times

Day 5: Marine life and birds created and blessed

Day 6: Animal life created and blessed; human life created, blessed and commissioned

Completion: Day 7: Creation marked with sanctified rest

Theological Themes in the Creation Account		
Day	Activity	Theological Themes
1	Light created, light divided from darkness	Revelation of God's goodness and separation from evil
2	Heaven divided from waters below	Separation from evil abyss (deep)
3	Land appears and vegetation	Provision of fertile land for all types of vegetation

4	Luminaries designated to rule times and seasons	Designation of appointed times and seasons for ordering creation
5	Living creatures of the sea and air created and blessed	Provision and blessing of all kinds of animal life
6	Land animals created and blessed; human life created and blessed and commissioned to have dominion	Provision of human life (seed) and blessing of fertility and dominion over creation
7	Completion of creation and designation of the seventh day	Provision of sanctifying, or theocratic, rest

Perspectives on Genesis One

		Progressive Creationism (Day-Age Theory)	Progressive Creationism (Intermittent Day Theory)	Mythological (Religious Only)	Gap Theory
Main Objective Genesis One	Cosmology Anthropology Theology	Cosmology Anthropology Theology	Cosmology Anthropology Theology	Teaching Religious Truth	Regeneration Anthropology
God's Creative Activity	Fiat Only	Fiat and Natural Processes	Fiat Only	No Comment	Fiat Only
Six Days of Genesis One	Literal 24 hour, solar days	Indefinite Periods of Time (ages)	24 Hour Days (Geologic Ages between each day)	Literary Days Logical order Not Chronological	24 Hour Days
Age of Earth	10,000-20,000 Years (for some older)	Several Billion Years	Several Billion Years	No Comment	Several Billion Years
Origin of Life and Man	Fiat Creation	Most Fiat Creation Some Evolution Directed by God	Fiat Only	No Comment	Fiat Creation Only
Evolution	Micro-Evolution only	Micro-Evolution only (except theistic evolution)	Micro-Evolution only	No Comment (must hold to Macro-Evaluation)	Micro-Evolution Only
Origin of Current Land Forms	Noah's Flood	Current Geologic Processes	Current Geologic Processes	No Comment	Prior to Gen. 1:2 Creation & Noah's Flood
Origin of Rock Strata and Fossils	Upper part of Noah's Flood and Lower part of original creation	Progressive deposition through billion year history	Progressive deposition through billion year history	No Comment	Upper Part Noah's Flood; Lower part Destruction from Satan's fall.
Dinosaurs	Taken on Noah's Ark. Extinction after the flood	Extinction in Sixth Day (age) before Man's creation (or limited Evolution)	Extinction in Geologic Age before the 6th 24 hour day on which man was created	No Comment (must see them dying out long before man is created)	Part of the original Creation which perished when Satan fell.