

# It Takes Faith To Be An Atheist

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Some of you were not alive when the Apollo 13 mission began. It was the sixth mission to the moon. James Lovell, Jack Swigert, Fred Haise were the crewmembers. There has been a fairly recent movie about Apollo 13 that you might have seen. If not, you should see it. Dorothy and I don't go to the movies very often, but this is one that is worthwhile.

On April 13, 1970, fifty-five hours and fifty-four minutes into this mission to the moon, Lovell, the commander, heard a loud bang. At first, he said he thought Swigert was playing a prank because occasionally Swigert would take a wrench or something metal and whang it on the side of the capsule to make a loud bang that would scare the crew half to death. Then, he'd start laughing. That's what Lovell thought had happened.

But immediately after that, multiple master caution warnings began going off on the control panels. Then, Lovell looked outside. They had small windows. He saw some gas venting into space and some debris. He initially thought it was a meteor strike. Then, Swigert got on the radio and famously said, "Houston, we have a problem here." These are very famous words. Unknown to the crew, who was trying to figure out what was going on, oxygen tank #2 had just exploded. During that explosion, oxygen tank #1 was damaged. What Lovell saw out his window was their oxygen supply venting out into space.

Yet, their depleting level of oxygen wasn't their own problem because that explosion created a shortage of water and a shortage of electricity. The Apollo created electricity and water in an onboard fuel cell by combining oxygen from the tanks and hydrogen from other tanks to generate electricity and water. Without oxygen, which was leaking out into space, they had no way to manufacture air to breathe, no way to manufacture water, and they would lose power. Losing any one of those three would mean their death.

At the time, they were 20,000 miles from earth heading in the wrong direction. And they were doing so at several thousand miles an hour. It was not a good situation. Swigert said afterwards, "If somebody had thrown that at us in the simulator," meaning quadruple failures of fuel cells #1 and #3 and oxygen tanks #1 and #2, "we would have said, 'Come on. You're not being realistic.'"

Yet, that's exactly what happened. They had an immediate crisis and had to do everything possible to conserve oxygen, water, and, most importantly, electricity. So what they did was immediately transfer from the command module. That's the conical shaped capsule with the heat shield on the bottom. The service module is down below containing the area where the explosion occurred.

The crew transferred into the lunar module, commonly called the LEM (Lunar exploratory Module). Earlier they had taken the LEM out of the service module and attached it to the nose of the command module. The LEM is that spidery looking craft that was going to be used to go down to the moon. Immediately they transferred themselves from the command module into this lunar module. They later called it their "lifeboat."

The LEM was designed to take two men down to the moon, while the third man orbited the moon in the command module. Then, the LEM would come back to the command module and they would head home. The LEM, this spidery looking craft, was built to sustain two men for forty hours. Now, it had to sustain three men for four days. How do you do that? That was one of the crises.

All non-essential systems were shut down including heat. All electrical systems in the command module were shut down. This had never happened before in space, but they shut everything down in the command module and then they moved into the lunar module. As a result of shutting down their electricity—remember they're in outer space—the temperature in the lunar module came down to 38° F. And, they're wearing their very thin flight suits. They don't have parkas with them on their way to the moon. So, it began to get very, very cold.

Because they had limited water supply, they made the decision to ration themselves one small cup of water per day. As a result of that, over the next few days they became dehydrated. If you have ever been dehydrated—I have—it affects your concentration. It affects your mental clarity. So, they had to deal with that.

The only viable way home was for them to continue onto the moon, swing around the far side, and use the moon's gravity to help propel them back to earth. That's exactly what they did. They passed over the lunar surface 137 miles up on their "big 180" back to earth.

Here's the problem. With all the electricity shut off, they could not navigate electronically. And, they couldn't navigate by the stars, which they were trained to do. They had the equipment to do that. The problem is when that explosion occurred, all the debris from the explosion was following the spaceship. Little pieces of insulation and metal and other debris was just hanging with the spaceship. They had no way to tell the debris from the stars. So, they could not navigate by the stars.

The fact is to come back to earth, they had to hit a very precise window entering the earth's atmosphere. If they hit it too shallow, they would bounce off the atmosphere into outer space. If they hit the earth's atmosphere at too big a descent, they would burn up. So, they devised a way whereby Lovell looked out one window and by using thrusters put the moon in a certain part of the window. Then, looking out another window, he put a portion of the earth in part of that window. Lovell is using thrusters to get the capsule lined up. If Lovell could get the moon and the earth lined up and get the capsule stable, that would be the correct path. Lovell was able to do that. Then, they fired a burn for a

number of seconds to speed their way back to earth before they lost water, air, and power.

On their way back to earth, they had a real problem. That is, carbon dioxide was building up in the atmosphere of the LEM. They were slowly being poisoned by their own breath. As we take in oxygen, we exhale carbon dioxide. Plants do the exact opposite, but there were no plants up there. So, the crew was slowly being poisoned. Yet, they had filters in the LEM that would filter out the carbon dioxide. Remember the LEM was only designed for two men for forty hours and those filters quickly became full.

They came up with a brilliant idea that there were filters in the command module and decided to go get those, which they did. There was only one problem. The openings to the filters in the lunar module were round and the openings to the filters in the command module were square.

Gene Krantz was the head Mission Controller for the whole operation. He had earlier famously said to the ground crew, trying to pump them up, "Failure is not an option." This is a common phrase today. When Krantz saw the square hole/round hole and the astronauts were saying, "This isn't going to work," Krantz said, "Tell me, this isn't a government operation."

What Krantz did was get an empty room, put the filters in the room. He said, "Get me everything they have up in space—everything!" Papers, manuals, and, thankfully, they even had some duck tape. Krantz said to the scientists there, "You make this work," and he gave them a time limit because the crew was going to die. They dumped all this stuff on the table and started working. These engineers found a way to put a square peg in a round hole. And they did it with cardboard and duck tape. (Duck tape solves a lot of problems, as most of us know.) Once the crew did this, the carbon dioxide levels began to reduce and they began to breathe easier.

As they approached their reentry to the earth, they had to climb back into the command module from their little LEM lifeboat because the LEM couldn't land on earth. They jettisoned the LEM and it later burned up in the earth's atmosphere. They went into the command module and the only electricity they had were the batteries they had saved in the command module.

Now, they had to have a brand new power-up procedure because they couldn't overstress those batteries. If they did the normal power-up procedure, they would have blown the batteries out in a matter of seconds. So, they had to devise, which they had done in simulators down on earth, a power-up procedure that was within the capabilities of the batteries but that would power-up just enough for the crew to turn the craft around so that the heat shield faced the earth, power the thrusters, and give them a little bit of communication. This had never been tried before.

To complicate matters, because of the drop in temperature, the control panels had condensation all over them to the point that water was dripping off the panels down onto

the floor. It would be like pouring water into the keyboard of your laptop and then trying to start your laptop. That was what they faced and they knew that when they threw that first switch that if they had a short, their lives were over. But God has mercy on whom He has mercy. And, I believe that sometimes God just intervenes out of mercy. They threw the switch and everything started powering up.

Reentry would only be successful if that angle was correct. We talked about that earlier. If the heat shield was damaged by the explosion, the crew had no way of knowing, and, if the parachutes worked, and if they weren't damaged somehow. I can remember the entire world was watching. The fact is they successfully landed back on earth four days after that explosion. It shows you how fragile life was up in that spacecraft. If things weren't properly balanced, how they would die very quickly.

Why am I telling you this story? What does this have to do with the sermon on the Sabbath? The point is that this earth is very much like that spacecraft. The astronauts could only survive in this fragile craft if the precise balance of various factors worked and they were all in balance. Otherwise, they would die. The same is true for this earth. There are various factors that come together to allow life on this earth and we can only survive if all of those are in correct balance. If conditions on the spacecraft went awry, which they obviously did very dramatically, the astronauts were going to die. The fact is that on this earth, if the conditions on the earth, the parameters that lead to life, if they vary only a tiny bit, life would not be possible on the earth.

To support a spacecraft, such as the Apollo 13, NASA found out that environment has to be finely, finely tuned for the crew to survive. Here is the point: The same is true for here on earth. Our environment has to be finely tuned for life to exist on earth. For us to remain alive nothing can change very much, nothing can change by any huge degree or life will not be possible.

With that in mind, let's understand that today there has been a shift in the scientific community. Many scientists are coming to believe that the universe began from nothing. We call that the Big Bang. I gave a sermon on that in March of this year. There was a time when nothing existed, no time, no matter, no energy, and the universe came into existence at one point with a gigantic explosion. Scientists resisted that for decades, but let me quote John Lennox, a Ph.D. and Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University. In his book, God and Stephen Hawking, he says:

Even if non-believers don't like it ...

Meaning: non-believers in the Big Bang.

... the Big Bang resonates powerfully with the Biblical narrative of creation. That is why before the Big Bang gained currency, so many leading scientists were keen to dismiss it since it seemed to support the Biblical story.

But today, particularly in the last thirty to fifty years, the evidence of the Big Bang is so overwhelming that it is now universally accepted as true by the vast majority of scientists on this earth. So, many scientists have come to believe and understand there was a time that there was nothing and something came out of nothing.

The second thing scientists are coming to understand is what we talked about in the beginning. That is that the universe is finely tuned to support life here on earth. That understanding began with Sir Isaac Newton. He was born in 1642 and he died in 1727. Newton is generally regarded as the most original and influential theorist in the history of science. He is on a pedestal that few can even come close to. Here is what Sir Isaac Newton said:

This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion from an intelligent and powerful being.

He understood that the balance we have and the life that exists could only come from someone far superior to human beings.

Then one hundred years later, William Paley, who was a theologian and a naturalist, wrote a book in 1818. Paley posited finding a watch in the woods. We talked about this in that sermon in March. So, you're walking through the woods, with the leaves and trees, and the flowing water. You see this diamond studded Rolex watch just lying on the floor of the forest. Paley asked the question "Is it logical to conclude that the watch came to be because of the wind and the rain?" Then he asked, "Is it logical to conclude that the watch came to be because of some chemical reaction in the soil? Or, that the watch came to be because of some form of erosion?" Paley was lengthy in his explanation but he concluded this.

The watch must have had a maker. Every indication of contrivance, every manifestation of design, which exists in the watch, exists in the work of nature with the difference on the side of nature in a degree that exceeds all computation.

Something as complicated as the earth with all the factors that come together to make the earth as we know it is so much more finely tuned than a mere watch. Therefore, if there had to be a designer for the watch, there must be a designer for the earth and all that goes into making this earth, including life on this earth.

And, yet, despite overwhelming evidence that God exists there are those who deny this fact. They support evolution and they find ways to try to get around this obvious evidence. We know they are influenced by Satan. Satan wants mankind to believe that everything we see, everything we experience has come together by accident or by chance.

This is all introduction. What we want to do today in the balance of the sermon is examine the fact that one needs extreme faith to be an atheist because the evidence is

not on the atheist's side. Therefore, if you are going to be an atheist, you have to have blind faith. We're going to talk about that today.

## **1. Constants are required for life on earth.**

The first thing we want to do is talk about these constants that must not vary in order to keep life on the earth, as we know it. Let's look at just six of these finely tuned constants, which are required for life to exist. They are obvious, but maybe sometimes we haven't thought about them. This is true whether it is a spacecraft or whether it is on this earth. We're going to apply the logic that God has given human beings to discern truth from falsehood. If you like to outline, this would be A.

### **1.A. The level of oxygen in our atmosphere.**

On earth, oxygen comprises 21% of air. What would happen if oxygen were 25%? Just a few percentage points more. If that was the case, fire would erupt spontaneously over the earth, and it would burn and burn until all forms of life were burned up. Plant life and animal life could not exist if oxygen was just a few percentage points higher.

On the other hand, what would happen if oxygen were just 15% instead of 21%? Human beings would suffocate, and, the astronauts on the Apollo capsule were finding that out firsthand very quickly.

So we see here that oxygen is 21% of the atmosphere. A little bit more or a little bit less and everything goes away. This is finely tuned, indeed. The ground crew in Houston and the Apollo astronauts had to find a way very quickly to keep that oxygen level at 21% or they would die in just a matter of hours.

### **1.B. The level of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.**

Carbon dioxide is only four one-hundredths of one percent of our atmosphere. Yet, if CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide, was just a little bit higher, we would have a runaway greenhouse effect in this atmosphere and we would burn up with the heat if CO<sub>2</sub> levels went up just a little bit. Of course, there is great controversy today around the world about CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

Now, what would happen if the CO<sub>2</sub> levels were a little bit less? If CO<sub>2</sub> levels were less, we would be unable to sustain photosynthesis. The plants would die. And, if the plants die, humans die because we would suffocate because the plants take in carbon dioxide and put out oxygen. We would die because there would not be enough oxygen. Again, the Apollo 13 astronauts found this out very quickly, very dramatically.

### **1.C. The transparency of our atmosphere.**

I mean by that two factors, the thickness of our atmosphere—how high it goes up from the surface of the earth—and the clarity of our atmosphere. If you look at Jupiter, you

can't see anything past the clouds that are boiling in the upper atmosphere of Jupiter. So, the thickness/thinness and the clarity of the atmosphere are important.

If our atmosphere was less transparent—meaning cloudy, filled with dust—or if it were thicker, not enough of the sun's energy would reach the earth. Both humans and plants would ultimately freeze to death. If, on the other hand, our atmosphere were thinner or more transparent, we would die in one of three ways. The nuclear radiation from the sun would cook us because the atmosphere filters that out and we don't have to worry about that. That's why on the Apollo spacecraft there is shielding. They're above the atmosphere and the capsule has shielding to prevent that from happening. Or, if our atmosphere were thinner or completely clear, we would roast to death from the heat. Or, if it were thinner, we would have a serious problem with meteor strikes on the earth. The vast majority, (99%) of the meteors that strike the earth, burn up in the atmosphere. If the atmosphere were thinner, we would have fires. We would have catastrophes all over the earth. As I said, the Apollo spacecraft had shielding to prevent that, but also they rotated it along its long axis just like the earth rotates, so that each side of the spacecraft got the same amount of exposure to the sun for heat purposes. The atmosphere of this earth is extremely fine-tuned.

#### **1.D. The gravitational interaction between the moon and the earth.**

We kind of take that for granted. What if that changed? The moon is 239,000 miles from earth. Today, the lunar gravity in some parts of the earth can cause tides of up to 60 feet. What if the moon was closer to the earth? In other words, the gravitational interaction between the earth and the moon was much, much greater. Enormous tides would submerge all the lowlands all over the earth twice a day. Life would be impossible in those areas. And, with the air stirred up by these gigantic tides coming and going twice a day, the atmosphere would be so stirred up that we would have daily hurricanes. Again, life would be almost impossible.

Now, what would happen if the moon were farther away (meaning the moon would have less influence over the earth)? That would cause orbital changes, which scientists have calculated. It would cause dramatic instabilities in the atmosphere if the moon were farther away. In either case, too close or too far away, life wouldn't exist. It is just right. Again, this is extremely fine-tuned.

#### **1.E. The force of gravity itself.**

Gravity is constant. The force of gravity is a constant. So, what if gravity was altered by ten percent? Or, what if it was altered by one percent? Or, what if it was altered by one-tenth of one percent? In any of those cases, life would not exist. Jeffrey Zweerink, a research physicist at UCLA calculated that if gravity were altered by .1 with thirty-seven zeroes behind it; .1, that's a tenth, but thirty-seven zeroes behind it—if it was altered by just that amount, the sun would float away. Gravity would not hold us together. Therefore, if we have no sun, we would have no us. Extremely fine-tuned, this force of gravity.

## **1.F. The tilt of the earth's axis.**

This is the last constant we'll talk about. The sun rotates on its axis and the earth does too. Yet, our axis is tilted  $23^\circ$ , exactly  $23^\circ$ . So, in the summertime, those of us in the northern hemisphere are facing the sun. So, it is warmer. We come around to the fall and it's equal. Then, we come into winter and we're tilted away from sun; therefore, we have winter. This gives us our seasons as we obviously know.

What if the axis was identical? What if there was no tilt at all? What would happen? The poles would never get sunlight. They would be in eternal twilight. And, as a result of that, gigantic glaciers would form at the north and south poles. Scientists have done the calculations and these huge glaciers would actually squeeze the earth like you would squeeze a ball at both ends and it would bulge out in the middle. That would cause volcanoes to erupt, earthquakes, and other problems by itself, but there would be no growing seasons in the north or south. Yet, on the equator, it would be so hot (because of the bulge) that people couldn't live around the equator. They couldn't sustain life. So, that doesn't work.

What if the axis was tilted more than  $23^\circ$ ? Maybe  $45^\circ$  or  $35^\circ$ ? If that occurred, winters would be far more severe. Summers would be far more severe. And life would not be possible. Twenty-three degrees is just about right.

So in this first point, we talked about just six constants. Now, let's get to the second point.

## **2. These constants prove that our world was designed.**

We'll get into the odds of that in just a second. The fact that these constants all line up just perfectly within very narrow parameters proves that the earth was designed. We've only mentioned six constants. Guess how many there are? There are 122. If you take any one of them off, life would not exist. One hundred twenty-two constants had to come together to make life possible on this earth. Each is finely tuned, which we just talked about.

Astrophysicist, Hugué Ross, Ph.D., University of Toronto, calculated the possibility that these 120 plus constants would come together by chance on one planet. First, you have to know how many planets there are in the universe to do the calculations. Ross assumed the number of planets in the universe to be  $10^{22}$ . For those of you who have forgotten high school or college math, that's 10 with twenty-two zeroes following it. That is the number of planets in the universe.  $10^{22}$ , that's lots of planets. So, there are lots of opportunities for this to happen by chance or by accident. The chance of all 122 constants occurring in one planet with those numbers of planets, Ross calculated that to be one in  $10^{138}$ . That's 10 with a hundred and thirty-eight zeroes following it. Only one chance against all of that.



So, you scratch your head and ask, what is  $10^{138}$ ? What does that actually mean? Let's put it another way. Let's suppose you took all the atoms in the universe. That is, the atoms in our bodies, the atoms in all of the humans on earth, the atoms of all the animals, and all the plants. It also includes the atoms in the earth itself and the atoms in the atmosphere. And, you took all the atoms in the planets in our solar system, plus the atoms in the sun. Then, you took all of the stars and planets in the Milky Way (a hundred billion plus stars), and all of the atoms in all of those stars, and in all of the gas and the dust, and all of the suns in the Milky Way. Then, you took all of the atoms that are in all the other constellations and all of the other stars in the universe. There are a hundred billion Milky Ways out there, each with 100 to 200 billion stars. If you took all of those atoms and you asked, "How many is that?" That would be only  $10^{70}$ .

So what that tells us is the chance of these 122 constants to come together in one planet is one chance in twice the number of atoms in the entire universe! What is that saying? The chance of that happening is zero. Absolutely zero. It's like saying that life happened on earth by chance. And it's equivalent to saying that a Boeing 747 resulted from a tornado going through a junkyard. It is impossible. "It is beyond calculation," as William Paley said.

Cosmologist Ed Harrison, a well-known author who has written many books on cosmology, says:

Here is the cosmological proof of the existence of God. The design argument of Paley [about the watch] updated and refurbished.

University of Chicago physicist, Michael Turner commenting on just one of these constants—not one we talked about but one of the 122—that's the rate of the expansion of the universe, the Big Bang started from nothing. All matter and energy exploded from that one point and has been expanding ever since. This is a good analogy. You have a cannonball and you shoot it straight up. With the gravity on the earth, the cannonball will start very fast but slow down, slow down, slow down and then start to come back to the earth due to gravity. The explosion of the universe had to be just as finely tuned. Otherwise, the universe would collapse in on itself or coast off where we wouldn't see anything. We would be all alone. Let me quote what Michael Turner, this physicist says:

To get a universe that has expanded as long as ours has without either collapsing or having its matter coast away would have required extraordinarily fine-tuning. The odds of achieving this would be the same as throwing a dart at the most distant star—13 million light years away—and hitting a bull's eye 1 mm in diameter.

Those are the odds just of this one constant—the expansion of the universe.

Then here is one more quote under this second point. Nobel Laureate Arno Penzias (we talked about him back in March) was the co-discoverer of the afterglow of the Big

Bang, the radiation from that initial explosion. This has been confirmed, reconfirmed, and reconfirmed again over the years. It is there and it is real. And Penzias won a Nobel Prize for it. He says:

Astronomy leads us to a unique event ...

Notice what he says, this scientist.

... a universe, which was created out of nothing ...

That was a huge leap for scientists to understand.

... and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the presence of an absurdly improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say supernatural, plan.

Scientists with an open mind are starting to see that this did not happen by accident.

Let's go to Psalm 147:4 to see what God says. God says that He has powers we cannot comprehend. Psalm 147:4, it says "He," referring to God Almighty.

***Psalm 147:4. He [tells] the number of the stars; ... (KJV)***

Not only that.

*4b) ... he [calls] them all by their names.*

*5) Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. (KJV)*

Absolutely. To make all this happen—it cannot happen by accident—it must have been created by a being that has infinite wisdom, understanding, and an infinite mind.

Let's get to the third point. We're building up a case here.

### **3. God says we can know Him by looking at His creation.**

The fact is many truths about God can be known by what He has done. Those things that He has done, we can observe. We can see with our own eyes. And, shame on us if we don't do that! Notice what David wrote 3,000 years ago. Let's go to Psalm 19:1. David knew this. God inspired David to write this and David believed this 3,000 years ago. Scientists today are just starting to get a glimpse of what David knew 3,000 years ago. Psalm 19:1, we sing a song, a psalm about this.

***Psalm 19:1. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament [shows] his [handiwork]. (KJV)***

We see it. David goes on.

*2) Day unto day [utters] speech, ... (KJV)*

Meaning, God's handiwork.

*2b) ... and night unto night [shows] knowledge. (KJV)*

Meaning, the knowledge of God, the creator. Verse 3:

*3) There is no speech nor language, where their voice ... (KJV)*

Meaning, God's handiwork.

*3b) ... is not heard. (KJV)*

We see it all over. God's creative ability is on display everywhere. Dorothy and I were looking at the sunrise the other day. When you look at the sunrise, you think, "What a magnificent God we have." And, no two sunrises are ever the same. Yet, God gives us this beautiful thing every morning.

Let's look to see what Isaiah wrote 300 years after David. Isaiah 40, we'll begin in verse 22. This was written about 2700 years ago. Isaiah knew things that medieval scholars didn't know.

***Isaiah 40:22.*** *It is he that [sits] upon the circle of the earth, ... (KJV)*

Wow, the earth is round. It's not flat. Even today, we have flat earthers that believe the earth is flat, if you can imagine that. It's a circle but it's a flat circle.

***Isaiah 40:22.*** *It is he that [sits] upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; ... (KJV)*

That's how God looks at our scientists today. And, all of us really, because we're just like grasshoppers jumping on the earth doing whatever we do.

*22b) ... that [stretches] out the heavens as a curtain, and [spreads] them out as a tent to dwell in: (KJV)*

God not only revealed the earth was round 700 years before the birth of Christ, but He also says God created all of this and spread it out as a curtain for us to see every night once the sun goes down.

Jump down to verse 25. Now God starts to speak.

*25) To whom then will [you] liken me, or shall I be equal? [says] the Holy One.*

*26) Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who [has] created these things, that [brings] out their host by number: he [calls] them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one [fails]. (KJV)*

God is the power and the intelligence behind all of this. Let's go back to Psalm 97 and let's look at verse 6. Here is another scripture saying we can know God by lifting up our eyes to the heavens. We're told:

***Psalm 97:6.*** *The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. (KJV)*

If we would only take the time to do that and marvel at it.... The point here is that Psalm 97 verse 6 tells us that the heavens are there for a reason. One of those reasons is to convince humankind that this didn't happen by accident and there is a supreme intelligence behind it all. God is saying to mankind, "Look up and look at what I have made and see Me, if you will only do that." God is telling us that we can know Him by what He has made.

Now, let's go to point four. We've talked briefly about everything that has to come together in a planned way with very tight tolerances to make possible.

#### **4. How do the atheists respond to this overwhelming evidence?**

What do they do? How can they continue to be atheists in spite of all this evidence?

There is no chance that the universe, this earth, happened by accident. Yet, atheistic scientists have developed a theory in an attempt to answer these questions. That theory is called The Multiple Universe Theory. It states that there are an infinite number of universes. Therefore, since there's an infinite number, it can overcome all of these odds, our universe happens to be the only one where all the criteria comes together—the only one. It relies on "the fact" of an infinite number of universes. Therefore, as I said, then, the odds can go away, if there is an infinite number.

What is the evidence against this Theory of Multiple Universes? You will have to screw your mind down tight on the second one.

What is the evidence against this theory? The first one is that there is absolutely no evidence for it. Meaning: there is no evidence whatsoever that there are any other universes—ever. Nobody has seen any. Nobody has measured any other universe. It is all speculation on the part of theorists.

Now, the second reason that this can't happen (we're going to need to think hard about this; focus with me) is that you cannot have an unlimited number of limited things. You cannot have an unlimited number of limited things. It is an impossibility. In other words, you cannot have an infinite number (an unlimited number) of finite things. Finite means something has a beginning and that something that has an end. It is finite. A finite

thing has a beginning and an end. Therefore, you cannot have an unlimited number of things that have a beginning and an end. You need to chew on this for a while and think about this.

The best way that I know to understand this is by asking, "Who are our parents?" We know our parents. Some are blessed to know their grandparents. And, even some are blessed to know their great grandparents. So, they know from whom they come. This generation begets this generation, which begets this generation, which begets this generation. All humans are finite, as we obviously know. We have a beginning and we have an end. So, you can go back. This family begets this family and it just goes back, back, back, back, back.

Yet, there must be a someone to create a being that had a beginning. There must be an eternal being to create a being that has a beginning. There must be an eternal being to create a universe that had a beginning because it came from nothing. Did another universe beget our universe? That doesn't happen.

When you have finite things and you say, there are an infinite number of them, that can't be. Ultimately, you come back to "What is the first finite thing—the first thing that had a beginning and an end?" The very first one didn't create itself. So, there has to be an infinite being, a being that doesn't have a beginning and doesn't have an end to create a finite being. This cannot go on indefinitely. And we know, humanly, we come back to Adam and Eve, and God and Jesus Christ.

So, if there is no infinite or eternal being, if there is no God, if there no infinite or eternal being, how did the first finite being come into existence. You can't explain it because it's an impossibility.

The only possible conclusion is that no being created God because God Himself is eternal. That is the only conclusion that we can draw.

Let's go to Deuteronomy 33 and verse 27. This basically says it all. Notice how God is described.

***Deuteronomy 33:27.*** *The eternal God is [your] refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: ... (KJV)*

His everlasting arms. Everlasting—no beginning, no end. We absolutely know for a fact that physical life hasn't existed forever. Therefore, spiritual life must have. That is the only conclusion that can be drawn. The universe had a beginning and it will have an end. Therefore, you cannot have an infinite number of them. Who created the first universe, which has a beginning and has an end?

Astronomer Fred Hoyle, who opposed the Big Bang, coined the term "Big Bang" and he meant it in a derisive way. He said, "This theory is like a big fireworks going off. It's just a big bang." He was deriding scientists and he did so for several decades. He just

couldn't accept that everything started from one explosion and there was nothing before that. He believed that the universe was eternal and not a god. But Hoyle finally concluded the following not long before his death:

A commonsense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with the physics, as well as the chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.

None. Everything is planned. Nothing happened by accident. Now, Hoyle didn't know who this super intelligence was. Yet, he did recognize the fine-tuning in every aspect of the universe, and, that fine-tuning required intelligence.

So, multiple universes cannot, do not, never will explain creation, and never can explain creation without a creator.

Now, let's go to the fifth and final point.

#### **5. Today we see Satan is doing all he can to get people's focus away from God as our creator.**

We know Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). One of Satan's greatest successes in modern society is convincing humans that there is no God. Two hundred years ago in England and the United States, everybody believed there was a God. There was no question. Look at society today in the western world. People don't know. They're agnostic; they're atheistic because of what Satan has been able to do.

Satan has removed God from our government. He's removed God from our schools. He's forbidden the teaching about God's existence. He's promoted atheism and evolution and it has permeated modern society. And, Satan has provoked scholars, teachers, and intellectuals to ridicule those who believe in God. They call us uneducated and uninformed, claiming those who believe in God don't know, don't get it, and don't have the intelligence to get it like they do.

George Will, who is my favorite commentator, is a Pulitzer Prize winning conservative political commentator. He has a column once a week in our paper. This is really funny. Will says this:

Soon, the American Civil Liberties Union or some similar faction of litigious secularism will file suit against NASA, charging that the Hubble space telescope unconstitutionally gives comfort to the religiously inclined.

That's how bad it's gotten. George Will is poking fun, but he's not far away from the truth. Satan is attempting to cover up all evidence that God exists. Let's just talk about one example under this point. We've talked about it in the past a couple times. That is light pollution in our towns and our cities. Light pollution occurs when you have

streetlights, neon signs, and all other lights. There is so much light on the ground that you cannot see the sky. You just can't.

If you go out in the middle of nowhere, with the naked eye, you can see about 2500 stars. And, you can see the band of the Milky Way go across the sky, if you can get away where there is no light.

Yet, because of light pollution, if you are in a suburb of a big city—not in a big city, just a suburb—instead of 2500 stars, you can only see two to three hundred stars. If you are in a typical city—Seattle or downtown even in our town probably—you can see fewer than a dozen stars. I've walked down the canyons of New York City where you have these giant skyscrapers. All you see around you are things built by men. If you want to see the sky, you have to break your neck almost to look straight up. You might see a tiny patch of black, where no skyscraper is there, but you certainly can't see any stars. The only thing you can see is the moon or Venus, maybe. That's it.

The sad thing is only one in three Americans have ever seen the Milky Way—with the naked eye, I'm talking about. It's only those who live in very remote areas where there is no light pollution.

So, this is just one example of how Satan has infiltrated our schools, the government, schools of higher learning, graduate schools, etc., to promote "the fact" that God doesn't exist. Then Satan tries to cover it up so that you can't see the sky. You can't see the heavens. Look at what God said, again about 3,000 years ago, in Psalm 14, a psalm of David. We'll just read verse 1. Notice this. God says:

***Psalm 14:1. The fool ... (KJV)***

Now, let's just stop there. What does He mean by fool? The Hebrew has two meanings and they comprise the whole spectrum—these two meanings. One is *stupid; meaning somebody who doesn't have the mental intelligence to come to a right conclusion*. The other meaning is *evil; meaning he does not want to come to the right conclusion because his mind is evil. Stupid, evil.*

***Psalm 14:1. The fool [has] said in his heart, There is no God. They [meaning these fools] are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that [does] good. (KJV)***

What are these abominable works, at least in the context of what we're talking about today? These abominable works are attempting to convince humankind there is no God—abominable works denying God—and to remove God from every facet of our society.

Notice what Christ said a couple of thousand years ago in Matthew 11 and verse 29. This is a key for all of us, for mankind in general, but for all of us. Christ said:

**Matthew 11:29.** *Take my yoke upon you, ... (KJV)*

Notice these next four words.

*29b) ... and learn of me; ... (KJV)*

Or learn about me. The New King James says, *learn from me.*

The New Living Translation says, *let me teach you.*

So, Christ is saying, "If you will just look up, I could teach you all kinds of things about my Father and about me. I could teach you all kinds of things about my plan of salvation." That's just by looking up, not to mention God's word that is the source of all our knowledge and understanding. God and Christ teach us that if we will but look up to the heavens, we can overcome this last point of Satan trying to convince us that God doesn't exist.

So, let's conclude now. Regarding human life, human existence, the only possible conclusions are two. Either no one created something out of nothing or someone created something out of nothing. Those are the only logical conclusions because we know this universe at some point in the distant past didn't exist. So, it came out of nothing. That means either no one created it or someone created it. Those are the only possible conclusions. And, since we can reject the first and accept the second, the only being that could create this would be someone of supreme intelligence to fine-tune everything that we see around us.

This is why forty-eight years ago, in this month, in 1968, something unique happened. I'm referring to the crew of Apollo 8. I remember this like it was yesterday because I was in the Air Force and I was being called at the same time. The crew of Apollo 8—Frank Borman and James Lovell, who commanded the crew we talked about in the beginning and William Anders—that spacecraft was the first spacecraft to leave the orbit of the earth. Prior to that time, we had just sent men orbiting around the earth. This was the first spacecraft to leave earth, to leave the orbit of the earth in an attempt to circle the moon. We weren't ready to land on it yet, but to go out and circle the moon and come back.

I could remember watching live television at that time. NASA—partly for PR purposes, but also to record the event—had powerful earth-based telescopes with television cameras attached to them. They were rudimentary by today's standards, but they still worked. NASA positioned a telescope and a camera just to the point where they lit the rockets to blast the spacecraft out of earth's orbit. I can remember you could see it silently going through the sky. Then, all of a sudden, that rocket lit. Then, it started accelerating faster and faster and faster until the point that you could just see the rear end of the rocket. You could see the flames of the rocket until it disappeared.



I remember thinking at that time how lonely these men must have been to leave the earth, to look back in the mirror, so to speak, and see this beautiful ball receding. And, they're going where no human has ever gone. They must have felt very lonely. Yet, they had a successful mission. They rounded the far side of the moon for the very first time. When you go on the backside of the moon, you lose radio contact because the moon itself blocks the signals. So, I can remember watching it. And, we waited and waited. I think it was several minutes. I can't remember exactly how long. They came around the other side and for the first time in human history, they saw an earthrise. Not a moonrise, but an earthrise. And, they were awestruck by what they saw.

Guess what they did, these three guys? They had planned it, yes. Every one of them was a scientist in his own right, an engineer in his own right. They knew what they were going to see, but it was so awesome that it took their breath away. Guess what they did? If you remember, if you were alive at that time, they quoted the first ten verses of Genesis.

I can remember hearing that thinking, "Here are these three guys, farther away from earth than any humans have ever been and they round the far side of the moon and the first thing they quote is Genesis. I was coming into the church. Man that had an impression on me! It was the most watched television program up to that point in time. They quoted those verses, and, then, yes, it was about Christmastime. They signed off by saying, "To the people of the good earth."

So, the point I'm making is the fact that God says, "If you'll just look up and see my creation." These three men rounded the moon and saw God's creation, the most beautiful globe—unlike any other globe that has ever been seen by telescopes or anything—this beautiful blue globe with the white clouds and the continents floating out in space. They were so awestruck by God's power and God's might that they quoted Genesis. The fact is that most of the astronauts—there was an article in our paper today—most of the astronauts were religious. If they weren't religious before they went into space, they were religious afterwards because of what they saw and what they experienced.

In these last days, God has provided so much evidence that He exists. We didn't have this evidence one hundred years ago, fifty years ago. We took it on faith in many cases. Yet, now, there is so much evidence that the tables have turned 180 degrees. The atheists have to accept their doctrine on faith because the evidence supports a supreme being. It takes boundless blind faith to be an atheist. Before this is all over, God is going to be able to say to humankind, "I showed you. You knew. You didn't accept it. You ignored it. You pooh-poohed it, but it was there all this time."

Let's go to Romans 1:20, the last scripture. God writes down what He's going to say to humankind and what He's saying to all mankind today. Romans 1 verse 20, I'm going to read it out of the NLT. It has a very interesting translation is just as accurate as the King James Version.

**Romans 1:20.** *From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature.... (NLT)*

Get this.

*20b) ... So, they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God. (NLT)*

The evidence is clear. The evidence is there. Verse 21:

*21) Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. (NLT)*

I might add: foolish ideas like evolution.

*21b) ... The result was that their minds became dark and confused.  
22) Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead. (NLT)*

Atheists today. Verse 23:

*23) And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and snakes. (NLT)*

And today, rather than doing that—we feel like we're so advanced as human beings—today what scientists do is they worship the human mind. On the evolutionary scale, on the evolutionary ladder at the peak of the ladder, at the top of the pyramid are human beings. We're the most advanced. The human mind is the epitome of all evolution. So what scientists do today instead of worshipping God, they worship something God has created. Back in Egypt, people worshipped something made out of wood or stone. Today, people worship the human mind and say that is everything; that is the ultimate. Verse 24:

*24) So, God let them go ahead and whatever shameful things their hearts desired.*

*25) Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies.... (NLT)*

Atheism. Evolution.

*25b) ... So they worshiped the things God made but not the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! (NLT)*

Today all too many willingly ignore the evidence that God exists and it's right in front of their eyes. So, we need to be thankful that God, in these end-times, has revealed it to us. The evidence is overwhelming. The evidence is right there—the evidence that God exists and that He is supreme over all.