

Evidence of the Creative Power of God

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For centuries man has looked upward into the heavens and marveled at what is out there. If you've ever done that on a clear night away from a city, you look up at the stars and feel pretty small in comparison to what is going on in the heavens. For millennia men looked into the skies and wanted to know where it all came from. How did it get there? Today scientists, like all of us, speculate and wonder and continue to investigate that very question. Where did it all come from and how did it get there?

We know that the heavens are there, in part, to reveal the power and intelligence of God. Let's go to Psalm 19:1. This is a psalm of David, and I'm sure thousands of nights as a shepherd in the fields, he could look up into the heavens and marvel.

Psalm 19:1. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handy work. (NKJV)

The Hebrew word for "declare" can mean *record*. The heavens record the glory of God. It can also mean *celebrate*. The heavens celebrate the glory of God.

With that understanding that we know that God and Jesus Christ created the heavens, but mankind has learned much over the last fifteen to twenty years about the universe. Astounding new discoveries and exciting new facts have come to light.

By way of introduction to set the stage, let's look at the almost incomprehensible size of the universe which God created.

Obviously, we live in this solar system and our nearest star to the solar system that we live in is 4.3 light years away. In a year, light will travel about six trillion miles. So that means the nearest star is roughly 25 trillion miles away. The fastest rocket we've ever made was the Saturn Five Moon Rocket. Guess how long it would take at its highest speed to get to the nearest star. Would it take ten years, twenty years maybe? It would take a hundred thousand years for the fastest rocket we've ever developed just to get to the nearest star.

A galaxy is a grouping of stars. Our galaxy is the Milky Way and our nearest star is a little over four light years away. The Milky Way is a disk that is a little thick in the center. It is a hundred thousand light years across. It is ten thousand light years, top to bottom. Within the Milky Way, there are over two hundred billion points of light, each one a star.

We've all heard of the Hubble Telescope. In 1995, they tasked the Hubble with what is called the "Deep Field Exploration." What they did was point the Hubble to the darkest, blackest, most remote part of the universe where, up to this point with all the telescopes

and technology we had, there was nothing there that we could see. They pointed the Hubble to that area of the universe and they left the lens on for ten days to gather even the faintest light that would come in from this darkest part of the universe. Guess what happened. After ten days they looked at all the data and found little spirals, disks, and wisps out there. They counted them and there were three thousand galaxies in the darkest part of space, this tiny little spot in the universe. This was an area of space that was supposedly empty.

In 2003, the Hubble had been modified and updated. They announced the project of the "Ultra Deep Field Exploration." It had better detectors than before and they pointed it into a different, but equally empty part of the sky. This time they left the camera on for eleven days. Guess how many galaxies they found there in this supposedly empty part of space. They found ten thousand galaxies in this tiny speck of space.

Some scientists have said that the photograph of that was the single most important image ever taken by humanity. It showed the complexity and the size and the magnificence of the universe.

Scientists began extrapolating that photo. If there are ten thousand galaxies in this tiny little spot, how many galaxies are there in the universe? Up to that point scientists had been talking about one or two hundred billion galaxies, each with a couple of hundred billion stars. Now scientists are talking about trillions of galaxies, each of up to a trillion stars. Think about that; trillions of galaxies each with trillions of stars.

As an aside to show the magnificence of God, despite that number, there are more atoms in your eyeball than all of that. Think about God. Think about that, from the small to the very large. What do these revelations say about God? It talks about His magnificence.

Let's ask the question, and this is all by way of introduction. How do we know all of this about the universe? We are sitting on this tiny earth out in the backwater of the Milky Way, and how can we know all of that? In part we know, because the deeper and deeper we look into space, the more we look back into time. Scientists call it space/time, because space and time are interrelated. Let me give you an example. Go out into the parking lot and look at the sun. We think we see the sun, but what we're actually seeing is where the sun was eight minutes ago. The sun is farther down road by eight minutes because it took eight minutes for the light from the sun to get to our eyeball. We are actually seeing the sun as it was eight minutes ago. So in that sense, we're looking back in time eight minutes.

Now the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, if we look at it tonight, we're looking at it where it was over four years ago. It's taken that light 4.3 years to get to us. It's on down the road and we're looking back in time when we look at the stars. The most distant objects that we can see up to this point are where they were 13 billion years ago. We are looking back in time 13 billion years. We see these stars, but in the past 13 billion years, many of them have died out. They've run out of fuel and they've died out. We're

seeing them as they were billions and billions of years ago. In that sense we can go back in time and see what occurred back then.

Again by way of introduction, let's try to grasp somehow the size of the universe. Currently scientists estimate the universe to be about 94 billion light years in diameter. That is a number that boggles the mind. We can't grasp that number, so let's put it into perspective. In Seattle there is the Mariners Baseball Stadium. It's a typical major league baseball stadium. I had a chance to go there last summer. Our son, Brit came out and we went to a ball game. Let's say that you reduced the sun, as big as it is, to the size of a baseball and you place the sun at home plate. Where would the earth be? The earth would be about a third of the way to the pitcher's mound and it would be the size of the ball in your ballpoint pen. Think about that. Now Pluto which used to be called a planet, but is not anymore, is the farthest big rock out there in solar system. Where would Pluto be relative to the sun? Would it be the size of a baseball? If you went all the way to the last seat in center field and looked at the wall behind it, that's where Pluto would be. We are just talking about our solar system. Where do you think the nearest star would be if the sun is the size of a baseball at home plate? It would be all the way to Houston. The earth is the size of the ball on a ballpoint pen. Guess how far our galaxy would extend in this analogy? Would it go half way around the world? Our galaxy would extend all the way to the moon, and the earth is the size of the ball on a ballpoint pen. That shows you how big the galaxy is, not to mention the universe.

Let's shrink it down even further. Let's say our Milky Way Galaxy is the size of a twelve-inch phonograph record. All but the young will recognize what I'm talking about. You could say a twelve-inch dinner plate. The Milky Way Galaxy is that size. The nearest galaxy to this twelve-inch dinner plate would be about twenty feet away. The edge of the observable universe would be one hundred miles away off of a twelve-inch dinner plate. That's how immense the universe is. These distances and this size gives us just a hint of the majesty of God.

Mankind has been asking for millennia, how did all of this come to pass? How did it come to be? We know that God and Christ whom we worship created every bit of this. Let's go to Hebrews 1:2 as we close out the introduction. We know God and Christ planned it, but Christ actually did it.

Hebrews 1:2. *Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (referring to the Father), whom he hath appointed heir of all things ... (KJV)*

The Son is heir of all things.

2b) ... by whom also he made the worlds; (KJV)

The Amplified Bible says, referring to Christ: *He created the worlds and the reaches of space and ages of time. (AMP)*

This is a very apt description since space and time are interrelated. What we're going to see today is that science has now come to the place where it has absolutely proved the existence of God. More and more scientists are coming to accept that fact. There are a bunch of scientists, however, who don't want anything to do with God and find very creative ways to explain it all away without God. But we're going to see that if you look at the facts, science has finally come to the place that they have proven the existence of God.

The title of the sermon is:

Proof of the Creative Power of God

Not only God's existence, but His power.

1. The first point we want to establish is Satan wants us and the world to believe that God does not exist.

We're going to give two examples of Satan's effort to try to convince mankind and us that God does not exist, to put doubts and fear in our minds.

We know in Revelation 12:9 that Satan deceives the whole world. We have to keep that in mind. He deceives the entire modern world into thinking that God and Satan himself don't exist. Because if we don't believe that Satan exists, then we are more susceptible to his deception.

We want to talk about two things.

A. Satan wants us to ignore God's creation.

If we ignore God's creation then we've become separated from God. It's easier to get away from God if we ignore His creation. It's so sad when you see kids today with their iPhones or iPads or smart phones and they're walking down the sidewalk and instead of talking to each other they are texting. You can better believe at night they never look up into the sky. They're busy with computers and video games and smart phones. They never look up. We are going to see that today scientists try very hard to explain the universe and the universe's origin without God. The reason is because Satan has influenced them to believe that God does not exist. We know as we just read in Psalm 19, the heavens declare God's glory and by looking up at that glory we get close to God. By ignoring that glory we get farther away from God.

One of Satan's devices is seemingly small, but it is not. In most peoples' minds it's small. It's this whole idea of light pollution. You occasionally see an article in the newspaper about light pollution. Scientists and people who look at public health are finally coming to realize that light pollution is not a good thing. In the suburbs and in major cities there are so many lights on at the same time that instead of night being dark, night is not very dark. In fact, with all of its lights, you can see Las Vegas from

outer space. It is so bright. It's this giant blob in the middle of the Nevada desert. You can see it from several thousand miles up in space. One of Satan's devices is to stop people from looking up.

If you were out away from a city and away from light pollution, with the human eye you can see approximately 2,500 stars, but if you're in the suburbs of a typical city on an average clear night you can only see two to three hundred. If you're in a major metropolitan area like Los Angeles, New York, etc., you can only see about twelve stars at night, because the light from the city washes all the rest out. It's amazing that only one in three Americans today can see the Milky Way, our own galaxy. If you've been out on a clear night away from light, you can see this band of light across the sky. The Roecks are nodding their heads because on their farm they can see that. Outside of being away from light, only one out of three can see the Milky Way and those are the people who are in remote rural areas where there is no light pollution. Satan is doing all he can to get us away from focusing on the creation of Almighty God, and its working for the average person.

B. Satan's other big effort down over the millennia is to convince man into believing that the universe has always existed.

Satan wants us to believe that the universe is eternal. If you can say that the universe is eternal then you don't need a creator; you don't need God.

Claudius Ptolemy was a Greek astronomer in second century A.D., not long after Christ walked the earth. He postulated that the earth was motionless at the center of the universe. It talks about the human vanity. Everything is about us. So we're at the center of the universe, and he said the stars were attached to a hollow sphere that rotated every twenty-four hours around the earth. We have to cut him a little slack because the telescope had not been invented and they were trying to comprehend this just by the unaided eye and figuring out what was happening up there. But Claudius Ptolemy established this and then in the fourth century A.D., the Catholic Church picked up the idea that the earth was the center of the universe. Of course, it's vanity. God's paying attention to us only and we're at the center of everything and everything rotates around the earth.

We have to understand at that time starting around 300 or 400 A.D. is the rise of the Catholic Church. Most of the education in the western world was focused in Catholic colleges and seminaries. Most of the scientists were Catholic and operated out of seminaries because they got paid to do so. The rest of the world was absolutely dirt poor. So most education and learning was centered in some kind of Catholic controlled university or seminary or so on.

Then in the mid-1500s, Nicholas Copernicus was a Polish church man and a scholar. He said, "No, we got it wrong. The earth and the planets revolve around the sun." The Catholic hierarchy went into orbit. They just could not handle this. In fact, Martin Luther was so scornful he said that Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, not the earth.

Therefore, the sun had to be moving and the earth had to be still. Religious dogma was such that they just wouldn't accept these facts that Copernicus had. So they shut him up.

Then in the early 1700th century, in the 1600s, Johannes Kepler, a German astronomer and mathematician said the orbits of the planets were not circular. They were elliptical. That sent the Catholics on edge again because it just didn't sound right. We're at the center of the universe and everything circles evenly around us and they didn't like that at all. What he was saying is, "Look, I can prove it." But they wouldn't listen.

In seventeenth century Europe, starting in the sixteen hundreds, a cultural revolution occurred. If you remember your high school or college history, it was called the "Age of Enlightenment" or the "Age of Reason." It emphasized human reason rather than tradition or religious dogma. Scientists began to challenge preconceived notions and ideas and challenge the Catholic Church and what the church had accepted on faith. So to advance this knowledge, the scientists accepted what is known as the "Scientific Method." It was a new way of thinking. It ignored the Bible and scripture. It ignored religious dogma and it used human logic to arrive at conclusions. So if you came up with a theory, then according to the scientific method you would then prove that theory through observation, through measurement, through calculation. Obviously, that scientific method leaves out anything spiritual, because you cannot measure spirit. They would only be able to come up with a conclusion if they could measure it and it satisfied the premise that they were trying to prove.

It was about this time, the 1600s, the 1700s and 1800s that the centers of learning began to separate from religious institutions. The centers of learning became separate and the church, Protestant and Catholic, had less influence in that area, because the scientists now began to poo-poo that God even existed.

Galileo, the Italian astronomer and physicist in the early 1600s was the first one to invent the practical use of the telescope. He looked into the heavens at night and he saw craters and mountains on the moon. Think about that. They had never been seen before by humans. He saw these dark spots on the sun and just marveled. He supported the Copernican Theory that the planets revolved around the sun. He was forced by the inquisition on pain of torture to renounce what he knew to be true in order to save his life. There was one account that he muttered under his breath, "I still believe what I believe", even though he said publicly that he renounced that teaching. He was confined to his house for the rest of his life, but he willingly said that he believed what he believed regardless of what he had to say to save his life.

So during this time, 1600, 1700, and 1800 and through the early 1900s, scientists began overthrowing religious dogma and teaching regarding the origin of the universe. Scientists came to believe during this three hundred year or so period of time, certainly to the beginning of the 1900s that the universe had always existed. The universe was eternal. The universe was fixed. It was steady and did not move relative one to

another. Galaxies didn't move. They were just fixed in space. This came to be called the "Steady State Theory."

Now if the universe was eternal, there is no need for God. There is no need for a creator. During those three hundred years, scientists have gotten far away from God. In fact most of the scientists in the early 1900s were atheists. Fred Hoyle, a twentieth century astronomer, made no bones about his opposition to Christianity. He said, "The universe is everything," because he believed it had always existed. He said, "You are a crackpot to suggest otherwise." This was in the early 1900s.

Let me read from a PhD, an author named Hugh Ross. He wrote the book, The Creator and the Cosmos. If you want a good book, you might want to get that. He says:

The theological thrust of the steady state model was that no personal involvement from God was necessary to explain our existence. Steady state says the universe has existed for an infinite amount of time, therefore, no creator and no God.

Satan influenced these scientists, these scholars to come to this conclusion, to again, like light pollution, to distance us from God. Look at 2 Corinthians 4:4. This was prophesied. It's a fact and it still exists today. Paul is referring to the god of this world, Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4. *In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (KJV)*

Satan wants to blind us to God's existence and he has done a pretty good job of that.

But beginning in the early 1900s, guess what happened? Facts forced science to change. They were forced to change, otherwise they would be hypocrites.

That leads us to the second big point we want to make today.

2. Science has now proved unequivocally that the universe has not always existed.

There was a time when the universe did not exist. The scientific facts changed their view to the point that they have now developed a theory called "The Big Bang Theory." Big Bang was a derogatory term that was used by a scientist who poo-pooed the idea, and it stuck. Now as we are going to see, it's been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Let's see how that happened. Let's see how man came from in the early 1900s thinking that the universe had always existed to the point that now every scientist believes that there was a time when the universe did not exist.

The first evidence was brought to light in 1912. A scientist named Vesto Slipher. He worked at the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona. He discovered through that telescope that a dozen galaxies were moving away from earth at one hundred million miles per hour. That just knocked in the head the Steady State Theory. People thought that his data was wrong. It created a stir in 1912.

The Hubble Telescope was named for Edwin Hubble. Edwin Hubble out of the Mount Wilson Observatory in California in 1929 found that the entire universe is expanding. Everything was moving away from everything else. He likened it to a raisin cake. He said if you mixed the dough and mixed raisins uniformly into this cake and it was a sphere, as heat began to be applied and it began to rise, the cake would expand in all directions. If a raisin in there was our galaxy, the Milky Way, guess what? All the other raisins are moving away from you because the whole sphere is getting bigger. So the distance between any two raisins increases and increases. He said, "That's what I have found."

But he didn't know why. At that time, nobody else knew why. This was 1929. Scientists began to investigate this phenomenon, but if you rewind that movie of the galaxies spreading away from each other, guess what? The universe shrinks and shrinks to a point when there was a time where it was infinitesimally small. It was much denser and much hotter. Then if you take it beyond that time, there was a time the universe didn't exist. Then it exploded into existence with what is termed the Big Bang.

Let me introduce you to a wonderful writer. His name is Robert Jastrow. This guy is no dummy. He has a PhD from Columbia University. He was the first Chairman of NASA's Lunar Exploration Committee. He chaired where the Apollo Astronauts were going to land on the moon and why. He was also the Chief of the Theoretical Division of NASA from 1958 to 1961. He was also Founder of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. He is a professor of Geophysics at Columbia University. This man is a very bright guy. He wrote an article in the New York Times in 1980. It was reproduced in the Reader's Digest the same year. Let me read what he says about this startling discovery.

The essence of these developments is that the universe had a sharply defined beginning that, at a certain moment in time, it came into existence. The essential elements of the astronomical and Biblical accounts of Genesis are the same, the chain of events leading to man commencing suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time in a flash of energy.

Now if the Big Bang was true and science was all in an uproar investigating this, then they all agreed that the heat from that explosion should still exist. That explosion was so gigantic that all these years later you could find a remnant of that heat.

So we come to 1965 and there were two scientists named Penzias and Wilson. They were searching for radio waves out in space, having nothing to do with this theory at all. They were operating out of New Jersey and they had a radio horn that was twenty feet

square. It tapered into a horn where they could collect the data from radio waves and record it. As they set up their equipment and started measuring, they found a background hiss. It was like when there were old cassette recorders. You could hear that hiss in the background. No matter where they pointed the antennae in the sky, the hiss was the same. They concluded that either the hiss was being generated somehow inside their horn or it was being generated somewhere in the local area or the hiss was pervasive in outer space. So they crawled into the antennae and taped all the seams and sealed it so that nothing from the outside could come in. They removed a pair of pigeons that had built a nest in there. In fact, it said that these pigeons had deposited “white dielectric material” inside their horn. It’s a polite way of saying pigeon poop. So they did all that and ran their experiments again and the hiss was still there. Then they heard of a manuscript that predicted the hiss that they were hearing. Let me read again from Robert Jastrow’s New York Times article from 1980.

These two physicists, puzzled by their discovery, did not realize they had stumbled upon the answer to one of the cosmic mysteries. Scientists who believed the Big Bang Theory had long asserted that the universe must have resembled a white hot fireball in the first moments after the Big Bang occurred. Gradually, as the universe expanded and cooled, the fireball would have become less and less brilliant. But its radiation would have never disappeared entirely. It was the diffuse glow of this ancient radiation dating back to the birth of the universe that Pensais and Wilson apparently discovered.

Now notice this. He goes on to say in this last sentence:

The clincher which has convinced almost the last doubting Thomas of the Big Bang Theory is that the radiation discovered by Pensais and Wilson had exactly the pattern of wave lengths expected for the light and heat produced in this gigantic explosion.

It matched perfectly.

Then in 1989, the U.S. launched the COBE Satellite. It stands for Cosmic Background Explorer and they verified that from outer space.

Then in 1995, another proof came to light. I’ll quote from Newsweek in their Science Section, called “The Stuff of the Big Bang.” This was in September 26, 1995. They talked about the Hopkins Ultraviolet Telescope. It detected individual helium atoms made less than three minutes after the Big Bang. How could they do that? They found out that these helium atoms were spread evenly and in such large quantities throughout the universe that it could only have come from the Big Bang, not from an individual star exploding. It was everywhere. The only explanation is that these helium atoms were created shortly after the Big Bang.

Brian Greene is a theoretical physicist. He says in a Newsweek article in 2012 called "New Secrets of the Universe." He said:

The Big Bang Theory was born and during the decades that followed, the theory would receive overwhelming observational support.

Every study has shown that this theory holds up under scrutiny.

Then just this year there is another proof. In the Smithsonian Magazine in May of this year, Brian Greene, this theoretical physicist at Columbia had an article called, "Listening to the Big Bang." What he was talking about is that we have funded a telescope at the South Pole. The telescope is a few hundred yards from dead center at the South Pole. The South Pole has the clearest and driest and coldest air on earth. This telescope was set up to look for the remnants of the Big Bang. The calculations have shown up to this time that gravitational waves should imprint kind of a twisted pattern in this background radiation. Guess what? On March 12th of this year, this telescope at the South Pole found exactly what was predicted. Gravity waves had penetrated all of this background radiation and had created a pattern to it exactly as the calculations had shown.

Let me read from John Hawley who is a theoretical astrophysicist at the University of Virginia. Most scientists today put the age of the universe at 13.7 billion years, plus or minus a few hundred thousand years. He says:

There is vivid, compelling evidence that everything in creation started with a Big Bang. There is compelling evidence that the universe is expanding and expanding very rapidly. There is evidence that there is dark energy, a force that is driving that accelerated expansion. All these things were theories before. Now we know.

Today the Big Bang Theory is thought to be 90 to 95 percent accurate. There might be a few details that would have to change, but virtually every scientist in the world agrees that the Big Bang is true. If you accept the Big Bang as true then there was a time when nothing existed. There was a time when there was no space. It took me a while to get my mind around this. We think of space as something that is empty. Before the Big Bang there was no space. There was no space, no matter, no energy, there was no time, there was nothing physical. Then with this gigantic explosion, physical space came into being, space came into being, everything physical came into being, matter came into being and time started when this explosion started.

I realize that there are a few Church of God ministers out there who feel threatened by this Big Bang. Somehow it diminishes from God or they cannot handle it or deal with it. They do so by ignoring facts. We have to deal in reality by what we know at any moment in time. If the facts change down the road, then our understanding will change, but we do have to deal in reality and accept the facts. For me (I don't know about you) it's easy to see that God and Christ planned all of this and what a more beautiful,

elegant and stupendous way to start physical creation than with a gigantic explosion ... just Ka-Boom! Nothing existed and then Ka-Wam! The universe started. I just don't see how you could say that God wouldn't do that. It was an explosion of space, matter, energy and the beginning of time.

3. What does the evidence tell us happened at the Big Bang?

When we look at this, it will blow your mind about the power of God Almighty. Mankind glories in his power. We glory in all the things we've created and all mankind has done.

The Saturn rocket that launched men to the moon had a million and a half pounds of thrust when it left the launching pad in Cape Kennedy. It's the most powerful rocket that has ever been designed. Just compare that with what we're going to talk about now and the power of God. You can see that is nothing compared to God. We have to think of the Big Bang as an explosion of space, not an explosion in space, because nothing physical existed before. There was no space, no time, no nothing. Think of it, when the Big Bang started, it would be like an expanding balloon. In that balloon, everything was physical. Outside the balloon, guess what? My theory is that everything else outside that balloon was spiritual. Some day we will find out. It was less than a millionth of a second. Scientists are very accurate in this. Today scientists say from the start to the first millionth of a second, there was a gigantic super force. The laws of nature as we know them today did not exist. There was nothing but this giant super force. I wonder who that super force could be? The universe in that first millionth of a second inflates exponentially by kind of anti-gravity. We think of gravity of pulling us to the earth, or keeping the moon from flying off into space. This is anti-gravity that pushes everything away. Within that first millionth of a second, the universe expanded a trillion, trillion, trillion times (four trillions) in a millionth of a second. It went from the size of a proton, which is one of the particles in the center of an atom, to the size of our current solar system in a millionth of a millionth of a millionth of a millionth of a second. That is faster than the speed of light by many times over. What kind of force would it take to do that? All the matter and all the energy in the universe was condensed down into a vanishingly small point and then exploded and then in less than of a millionth of a second it went from that to the size of a solar system. You want to talk about power. That is power. At that point, about a millionth of a second afterward, this energy began to congeal into matter.

Let me read from Michael D. Lemonik from a [Time Magazine](#) article in 2001.

The inflationary expansion stops when the force driving it (he didn't say it was God) is transformed into matter and energy as we know them.

What he doesn't know he is saying is that a spirit with incredible force began this and then that energy was transformed into matter as we know it, and the laws of physics began to apply.

There is an MIT scientist named Alan Guth. Most scientists say he is the smartest man alive today. He thinks on a level that is far beyond anyone else. He says:

The expansion of the universe one second after the Big Bang had to be accurate within fifteen decimal places or the universe could not exist as it does today.

This indicates design and planning. It indicates forces that we have no comprehension about. It is my opinion that God and Jesus Christ were the spiritual driving force behind that Big Bang, and that spiritual power was transformed somehow into physical matter and energy as we have come to know it today. Only then, in the first few seconds, did the laws of nature we have today come into being.

Now between three minutes after the Big Bang and about three hundred thousand years, the universe was expanding incredibly fast. It was filled with a fog of particles to the point there was no light. It was so dense because all the matter that is in the universe was in this bubble, if you want to call it that. Light could not penetrate.

At some point after three hundred thousand years up to about a million years, atoms began to form. As this matter began to thin out, the universe began to be transparent to light. You could begin to see light.

Then between about a million years and five billion years (to us that's a very long time, but to God it's nothing) the fact is that galaxies began to take shape from the clouds of particles that were part of the Big Bang due to their gravity. Galaxies and stars began to take shape and then galaxies began to huddle together in large clusters of galaxies. We are part of the Milky Way as part of a galactic cluster called the Local Group with about fifty other galaxies in it. Gravity kind of brought the galaxies together, and there are various groups around the universe of clusters of galaxies all due to gravity.

Now we're getting to about five billion years after the Big Bang and guess what? The expansion was slowing due to all this gravity, due to the matter we can see plus all the dark matter that we cannot see (that's another subject). It was like you shot a cannon straight up. As the ball leaves the muzzle of the gun, that's the fastest it's going to go, and as it goes up it slows down and slows down and finally comes to a stop and falls back to earth. You would expect after the Big Bang this tremendous explosion and then after billions of years because of the gravity inside of the matter, it would gradually start to slow down. That's exactly what happened. The universe was slowing down at about five billion years. Then something happened that just blows the minds of scientists today. They have a hard time explaining it and still can't fully explain. At about six billion years of the existence of the universe, about eight billion years ago, something very strange happened. The Big Bang was slowing down as scientists expected. Remember, they can look back in time and see this. Then at about six billion years, the universe began speeding up in its expansion. It started faster than light and slowed down and slowed down and then about eight billion years ago it started speeding up again. Nobody anticipated this.

Scientist, Andy Fabian said, "It's like throwing an apple into the air and having it accelerate upward." Can you imagine the surprise of the scientists when they first found this out? But it's been confirmed by the Hubble Telescope, it's been confirmed by an observatory called the Chandra X-ray Observatory. It's orbiting earth as we speak, and it has confirmed this. The Hercules Cluster, which is a cluster of about twenty thousand galaxies, is receding from earth at the speed of 25 million miles an hour. The Hydra Cluster is receding from the earth at 162 million miles an hour. The most remote clusters we can see are speeding away from us many times greater than the speed of light. There is an explanation for that, but we don't have time to talk about that today. The reason it is happening is because space is expanding.

The entire universe is expanding at such a rate that if this goes on several billion years into the future, the Milky Way will be all alone. There will be no other visible stars beyond the Milky Way, because the galaxies like that giant raisin cake are just getting farther and farther apart and, over time, they are going faster and faster.

What is the cause of this? It just blows the scientists minds. The current belief is the expansion is caused by some anti-gravity force that we can't see, that we can't measure. It's called "dark energy." One scientist said, "It's like an invisible mist that is uniformly spread throughout space." The current calculations are that dark energy comprises about sixty-eight percent of the universe. It's something you can't see. You can see the effects, but you can't see it.

Steven Alan, who is a project leader of this Chandra X-ray Observatory that was launched in 1999 said, "Dark energy is perhaps the biggest mystery in physics."

This is just my opinion, but I think God is saying to the scientists, "You guys don't know as much as you think you know. I've got a few surprises for you. I'm going to throw you a few curve balls. Noodle on this, if you would."

Adam Reiss of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland says:

Apparently if all of this is correct, the vacuum of space still has energy in it." Energy in a vacuum? How does that work? "The bigger the vacuum, the more dark energy there is. A given volume of space (whether a square inch or a square light year) has the same amount of dark energy. So when the distance between two galaxies doubles, the force pushing them away from each other is twice as strong.

The farther away they get, the more this dark energy pushes them away. Now they are farther still. There is more dark energy because space is expanding and pushing them farther away still and they get faster and faster.

Where does all this energy come from? I wonder. Scientists are scratching their heads and wonder who would have the energy and power to do all this? Let's go to John 3:8

out of the New King James. We're going to launch into a little bit of speculation, but I don't think it's out of the realm of possibility here.

John 3:8. *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.* (NKJV)

What this tells us is that we cannot see or touch someone who is born of the spirit, or spirit itself, but we see the effects of it. This is just speculation, and there is some evidence of this, could it be that spirit somehow connects all physical things some way? You hear of two people, parents, twins, brothers and sisters hundreds or thousands of miles apart, and one dies and the other knows it instantly. That is documented. Could it be that spirit somehow connects all things physical? That is just speculation. It could be like the wind. We can see its influence. Some day we will find out.

Let's go to Jeremiah 10:12. This is the reality. This is the fact. I think this scripture takes on a new dimension given what we just talked about.

Jeremiah 10:12. *He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom ...* (NKJV)

Notice this last sentence.

12b) ... And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion. (NKJV)

Boy, is that ever happening today. The heavens are stretched out and it just blows our minds. Looking up at night reminds us of the power and the majesty of God and Christ.

4. The Big Bang requires the need for a Creator.

The big question has been since the theory was accepted: What happened before the Big Bang? This has troubled many scientists and cosmologists. What existed before the Big Bang? One scientist said, "We can't answer that because its outside the laws of physics. Yes, it is.

Brian Greene in the Newsweek article of 2012, "The New Secrets of the Universe" said:

Yet scientists were aware that the Big Bang Theory suffered from a significant shortcoming. Of all things, it leaves out the bang. The Big Bang thus provides no insight into what might have powered the bang itself.

Meaning the theory leaves out the cause of the bang, the Creator of the bang. As one scientist said, "At the very beginning, the universe was pure exquisite energy." Now Who is pure exquisite energy if it's not God? God had to be the power and the force behind the Big Bang.

From The Creator in the Cosmos again by Hugh Ross, he says,

By definition, time is that dimension (think about this) in which cause and effect phenomenon take place. The Cause of the universe must be some entity operating in a time dimension completely independent of and preexistent to the time dimension of the cosmos. It tells us that the Creator is transcendental, operating beyond the dimensions and limits of the universe. It tells us that God is not the universe itself nor is God contained within the universe.

God had to be outside the universe in order to create the universe.

Robert Jastrow again in his 1980 article in the New York Times:

I think scientists cannot bear the thought of a natural phenomenon that cannot be explained. There is kind of a religion in science. It is a religion of a person who believes that every event in the universe can be explained in a rational way as a product of some previous event. This faith is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning, under the conditions that the known laws of physics are not valid and as a product of forces we cannot discover. When that happens, the scientist has lost control.

He cannot explain. As a result, scientists have developed other theories to explain how something came into existence that never existed before. String Theory is one, and multiple universes is another. In a sense, multiple universes is correct, because the spirit world is a different universe if you want to use the broader term. The spirit world is a different universe than our physical universe. So in that sense, there is another universe out there.

Remember Matthew 13:14, where Christ said, "You can hear and not understand and you can see and not perceive." That is exactly what happens. They are hearing and seeing, but they do not understand.

Let me read a short paragraph from a writing of William Paley. He was a theologian and a naturalist and wrote a book on the evidence and attributes of deity. He wrote this in 1818. You'll have to take into account the nineteenth century wording.

In crossing a heaf, I supposed I pitched my foot against a stone and were asked how the stone came to be there. I might possibly answer that, for anything I knew to the contrary, it had laid there forever. Nor would it perhaps be very easy to show the absurdity of the answer (that the stone had always been there), but suppose I had found a watch on the ground and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be there in the first place. I should hardly think of the answer which I had before given, that

for anything I knew the watch might have always been there forever. The watch must have had a maker. There must have existed at some time and at some place or other an artificer or artificers who formed it for the purpose which we find it actually to answer, who comprehended its construction and designed its use. Every indication of contrivance, every manifestation of design which existed in the watch exists in the work of nature with the difference on the side of nature being greater and more and that in a degree that exceeds all calculation.

To say that a watch came into existence; well how on earth could the universe come into existence without a maker? Mr. Armstrong used this example many times about the watch. He never attributed it to Paley, but Paley was the first one to put that down in words.

Now Arnold Pensais, the Nobel Prize Winner that first found the hiss, says:

Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe that was created out of nothing, one with a very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan.

Edward Harrison, a cosmologist, said:

Here is the cosmological proof of the existence of God. The design argument of Paley updated and refurbished the fine tuning of the universe provides prima facie evidence of deistic design.

This is a scientist talking. Prima facie is a legal term that means *apparent or legally sufficient*. He said, "Here is clear apparent evidence or legally sufficient evidence of a deity. Take your choice, blind chance that requires multitudes of universes or design that requires only one. Many scientists, when they admit their views, incline toward the design argument."

They keep it quiet because they are afraid to be criticized by their atheistic colleagues.

Robert Jastrow wrote in Christianity Today in 1982, he says: (This is really funny.)

Astronomers now have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven by their own methods that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on earth. They have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover, that there are what I or anyone would call super natural forces at work is now I think a scientifically proven fact.

The Big Bang does, I believe, prove the existence of God. Many scientists are coming to that conclusion.

Now let's summarize. There are some interesting comments here as we summarize.

- We see how Satan has deceived man into thinking that the universe was eternal and always existed.
- We see how Satan wants to separate man from God.
- We talked about light pollution and obviously there are many other ways he does that.
- But the scientific facts led to the development of the Big Bang Theory and that theory has been proven and that theory requires a Creator. It's as simple as that. God has made it such that man is without excuse.

Let's go to Romans 1 and we'll read verses 18, 19 and 20. God is providing the evidence of His existence in these end days so that man is without excuse. I'm going to read it from the New Living Translation.

Romans 1:18: *But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who push the truth from themselves. (NLT)*

Atheistic scientists come to mind there.

19) For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts.

20) From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. (NLT)

This is exactly what God is doing in these last days through science and its own methods.

Again from The Creator in the Cosmos, Hugh Ross on page 61:

The question I hear often is, why has our generation been singled out to receive such an abundance of evidence for God and His word? Why have we been given so much more proof than previous generations?

Then he answers. This just blows your mind.

The answer I see from the Bible is that God measures out evidence in direct proportion to the level of resistance to His truth.

The more people are opposed, the more evidence He puts in front of them so they have no excuse when they stand before Him at some point in the future.

Darrel Falk, a biology professor at the Point Loma Nazarene University says:

The story of the cosmos and the Big Bang of creation is not inconsistent with the message of Genesis 1, and there is much profound Biblical scholarship to demonstrate this.

Let me read a final quote now from Robert Jastrow in his book, God and the Astronomers. It is a very interesting book. This is a good way to end the sermon because it is humorous.

For the scientist who has lived by his faith (we talked about this religion in science) in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance. He is about to conquer the highest peak, and as he pulls himself over the final rock he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.

Isn't that the truth? The beautiful thing in this end day is that we are so blessed that mankind and science has proved the existence of God. It is without question, and as a result, mankind now is without excuse. That also means that we are without excuse too. We know better than anyone.

So when trials and difficulties come down the road, let's remember there is scientific evidence for the existence of our Creator. His word is true and we can rely on him and His Son to provide salvation for us if we just follow the right path.