

Science and the Bible

A Search for Meaning & Significance

Big Bang or Big Fraud?

Welcome/Introductory Notes/Prayer/Video

Foundational Principle for the Entire Study: **Test everything. Hold on to the good.** ¹ Thessalonians 5:21

The Premise of this Study: **The Facts of Nature and the Bible are the Same.**

Big Bang Introduction

Big Bang Cosmology: The Big Bang is a specific explanation for how the universe began and developed.

The theory claims to fit a growing body of evidence from physics and astronomy. Is the Big Bang true?

Brief History of Big Bang Theory:

- 🕒 1916 Theoretical Evidence Produced for the Big Bang – General Relativity (Einstein)
- 🕒 1925 First Observation of the Expanding Universe (Lemaître)
- 🕒 1929 Establishment of the Expanding Universe (Hubble)
- 🕒 1965 Theory Confirmed: Discovery of Background Radiation (Arno Penzias & Robert Wilson)

The Big Bang Describes:

- 🕒 The Beginning of all Space, Time, Matter and Energy
- 🕒 The Expansion of the Universe from a nearly infinitely Hot State
- 🕒 The Constancy of the Laws of Physics
- 🕒 Continuous Cooling of the Universe resulting in the End of all Life in the distant Future

However, reactions to the Big Bang theory are mixed. There are many scientists, as well as Christians, who have rejected the theory, but for entirely different reasons.

Some scientists reject the Big Bang, because the theory indicates the universe had a beginning (and, therefore, a beginner) and/or the universe is too young (about 13.7 billion years old).

Some Christians reject the Big Bang, because the theory implies the universe is too old.

A Few of the Most Important Scientific Discoveries Supporting the Big Bang

1. A fundamental understanding of Einstein's general theory of relativity predicts the universe had a beginning and has been expanding since its origin.
"The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible." (Albert Einstein)
Note: When Einstein first realized his theoretical calculations predicted an expanding universe, he adjusted some of his equations so his theory would fit a static universe, which was the belief of most scientists during the early 1900's. Einstein later stated this was the greatest blunder of his career.
2. Edwin Hubble observed (at Mt. Wilson Observatory) the galaxies moving away from each other, and that the galaxies at greater distances are moving at higher speeds than the galaxies closer to Earth.
3. The leftover energy (the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation) from the Big Bang (Creation) event was first detected by Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson (1965). (1978 Nobel Prize in Physics)
4. The ripples in the Cosmic Background Radiation was measured by the COBE satellite (1992).

Please direct questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, ron@hopeinchristnm.com, 505-294-4743.

The Multiverse : A Response to the Big Bang by some Agnostic/Atheistic Scientists

The Multiverse Model: Given the compelling scientific evidence for the Big Bang, some cosmologists have invented the Multiverse Model in an attempt to overcome the ‘problem’ of a beginning & fine tuning (design).

However, the Multiverse Model (it actually predicts an infinite number of infinite universes):

- Ⓢ Was only introduced after the Big Bang theory was confirmed
- Ⓢ Requires a different set of physical laws
- Ⓢ Is highly speculative and can never be confirmed observationally
- Ⓢ In reality, the Multiverse Model is primarily metaphysical (faith-based)

A Few Reasons some Christians give for Rejecting the Big Bang Theory

- Ⓢ Lack of consensus in the scientific community
- Ⓢ Shouldn't hang theology on the 'quicksand' of changing science
- Ⓢ The Big Bang is just another man-made, atheistic, evolutionary way to get rid of God.
- Ⓢ How can anything good come out of a gigantic explosion?

Three Major Misconceptions about the Big Bang Theory

Misconception # 1:

The Big Bang Theory is only supported by atheistic scientists in order to disprove God's existence.

Actually, Fred Hoyle (agnostic) coined the expression “Big Bang” as a derogatory term. Hoyle rejected the idea of a beginning to the universe, because of the implication of a beginner (a designer).

Yet, here is a curious quote from Fred Hoyle:

“There is a coherent plan in the universe, though I don't know what it's a plan for.”

Misconception # 2:

How can we know anything about the beginning of the universe when no one was there to see it?

However, we were/are there, because astronomy allows us to see into the past.

Light travels very fast (186,000 miles/second), but with the vast distances in the universe, the light travel times from far-off galaxies can be up to billions of years. For example, the Sun is 8.5 light minutes and the Andromeda Galaxy is 3 million light years away. In other words, when observed from the earth, the sun is seen as it was 8.5 minutes and the Andromeda Galaxy 3 million years prior to the observations.

Misconception # 3:

Why would God decide to use a chaotic explosion to create the Universe?

Actually, the Big Bang was not a disordered (chaotic) blast, but an exquisite and finely-tuned (mathematically-described) expansion, much like the uncoiling of a tightly-wound spring.

In addition to describing God as the Creator of the Universe, does the Bible contain any verses supporting the Big Bang theory?

Yes! The Bible said it first.:

The very words used in Scripture to describe the Creation fit the key concepts of the Big Bang model.

See the examples in the following table of how the Big Bang Model and Biblical Creation agree:

Biblical passages are taken from the NIV1984.

If the Big Bang Theory is true:	However, the Bible said it first:
1. The universe had a transcendent origin.	OT: Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
	Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.
	NT: Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
	Romans 4:17 God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. (NASB)
If the Big Bang Theory is true:	However, the Bible said it first:
2. The universe had a beginning.	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
	Hebrews 1:10 In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.
If the Big Bang Theory is true:	However, the Bible said it first:
3. The universe is expanding.	Isaiah 40:22 He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
	Zechariah 12:1 The Lord, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him...
If the Big Bang Theory is true:	However, the Bible said it first:
4. The laws of physics are constant.	Jeremiah 33:25b ... the fixed laws of heaven and earth...
	Romans 8:21 ...the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay...
If the Big Bang Theory is true:	However, the Bible said it first:
5. The universe will end.	2 Peter 3:10 The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire...
	Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...

Since it appears the Evidences of Science and the Statements of Scripture both support the Big Bang Theory: What are some of the consequences of this Agreement?

- 🕒 The Big Bang Creation event offers a powerful evangelistic tool that will enable open communication between Christians and science-oriented non-Christians.
- 🕒 The Big Bang Creation event provides a unique opportunity to integrate a scientific model of origins with a Christian cosmological worldview.
- 🕒 Big Bang Creation demonstrates: nature and the Bible (Christianity) are not in conflict, but harmony.

Questions?

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Glimpse Ahead and Conclusion

Addendum 2015

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“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead.” (Albert Einstein)

The Universe had a Transcendent Beginning: The Bible said it first!

Psalms 33:8-9a For [the Lord] spoke, and it came to be...

The Expansion of the Universe: The Bible said it first!

Job 9:8 He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

Psalms 104:2 He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent

Isaiah 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

Isaiah 42:5 This is what God the LORD says – he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it...

Isaiah 44:24b I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself...

Isaiah 45:12 It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

Isaiah 48:13 My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together.

Isaiah 51:13b The LORD your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth...

Jeremiah 10:12 God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. Jeremiah 51:15

Zechariah 12:1b The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him...

The Universe (as we know it) will End: The Bible said it first!

Science: The lack of heat will result in all Life ceasing to exist, but the Universe will expand forever.

Bible: Having eliminated Sin and Evil, God will remove the Universe to make way for the New Creation.

“The radiation left over from the Big Bang is the same as that in your microwave oven, but very much less powerful. It would heat your pizza only to minus 271.3°C – not much good for defrosting the pizza, let alone cooking it.” (Stephen Hawking) (FYI: absolute zero = -273.15°C)