

The Cosmos is Calling

Psalm 19.1-3 – The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Introduction

- ❖ Up till this point we have seen some introduction to Apologetics. We have looked at what it is, how it is used, and issues surrounding the debate. Today we will begin looking at some positive arguments for the existence of God and how what we learn through the sciences confirm what we know to be true in the scriptures.
- ❖ Before we go on I would like to make one point in review. In lesson 1 we found that we as Christians have the responsibility to study, teach, preach, exhort, rebuke and evangelize. I would like to revisit this in light of Pastor's sermon last week. Pastor made the assertion that heresy or a heretic is someone who believes and teaches an error. This is for the purpose of self advancement by creating factions or sects. Heresy is ultimately a work of the flesh and is driven by pride.
- ❖ If we read I Tim 3.1-10 we see the qualifications for bishops and deacons. In ch 4 he instructs Timothy to be an example. The example or model that he is supposed to be is given in ch 3 so this list is what all Christians should strive to follow. Two I would like to point out is vs 6 not a novice lest he be lifted by pride, and vs 10 also first be proved. The novice I believe deals with the study part but what about the proving part? If we look at II Tim 2.15-26 we see that we study to show ourselves approved but how? Rightly dividing the word of truth, but is that all just to know for knowing sake or to apply it? As we read down through the passage we see that our call to study has application in teaching, instructing, and in chapter 4 to preach and evangelize. In I Cor 11.17-19 we see that heresy has a benefit of manifesting those that are approved. So then how it works is that all Christians are called to study the word and be diligent in the doctrine. Then when adversity arises in the form of heresy (whether in or out of the church) these people show they are approved by being able to identify and correct the error. They are also able to teach others why the heresy is error and recover those who oppose themselves by following the heresy. This is one way we can 'vet' or prove those who desire to teach. Can they see and deal with error? This is what all Christians are called to model.

Cosmological Argument

- ❖ Now I would like to turn to arguments for the existence of God. These arguments often are based in the sciences and math. The strength of them lies in that they are concerned with what the facts show is the most likely explanation.
 - As Michael Behe states that arguments based on science and math are beneficial saying “First of all, it is immune to the argument from evil. It matters not a whit to the scientific case whether the designer is good or bad, interested in us or disinterested. It only matters whether an explanation of design appears to be consistent with the biological examples I point to. Second, questions about whether the designer is omnipotent, or even especially competent, do not arise in my case, as they did in Paley’s.” (*Darwinism under the microscope* pg 130)
 - The beauty of these arguments is that they show without needing to appeal to religious writings that an intelligent agent must have created and designed the universe and the things we find in it.
- ❖ The first argument I would like to consider is Cosmological argument. Remember from lesson 1 that a cosmological argument is an argument based on...
 - Cause and effect – everything that begins to exist must have a sufficient cause; since the universe began to exist the universe therefore must have a sufficient cause and that cause is God.
 - The cosmo has several variations that have been defended throughout history the next two formal arguments are some examples.
 - First is the Kalam version
 - Whatever begins to exist has a cause for it’s coming into being.
 - The universe began to exist
 - Therefore, The universe has a cause for it’s coming into being
 - G. W. Leibniz expanded this argument as follows
 - Anything that exists has an explanation of its existence, either in the necessity of its own nature or in an external cause.
 - If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.

- The universe exists
- Therefore, the universe has an explanation of its existence.(from 1 and 3)
- Therefore, the explanation of the existence of the universe is God. (from 2 and 4)
- These can be confusing so I will attempt to illustrate these and explain them so that they will be useful and easier to remember. I will break it down into steps with two possible scenarios and we will see which one makes more sense. Each of these splits only have two possible answers based on the Law of non contradiction and the law of excluded middle. Based on these laws only two options are available.

❖ Start with the Cosmos. Does it exist or not?

Heb 1.3 “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

- So our first junction is the question of do we exist at all. Is the universe real, or just an illusion, like the concept of the matrix? This often attributed to Ludwig Boltzmann who proposed that the universe could possibly just be an imagination of a single existent mind. Referred to as Boltzmann’s brains, the idea spawned all kinds of theories into the universes existence or lack thereof. Multiverse and alternate universes became popularized by holly wood in movies like the matrix, 13 floor, and inception where reality was not the way it seemed. Although entertaining and interesting is there any reason to believe that it is the case? The answer is no. There is no Scientific, philosophical or theological proofs for the multiverse or to say that we are all just illusions. The burden of proof then lies not on the believer in the universe but the skeptic. Why believe that we are illusions? What actual proof can you give? What you find is that atheism often requires more faith than Christianity .

❖ Did the cosmos begin to exist or exist forever?

Gen 1.1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

- Some persons will maintain that the universe always existed and therefore didn’t need creating, without the need for creating what use is a creator? The problem with this is that it’s again not what Science, philosophy and theology, teach. People will often believe a lie to escape an un-pleasantry.
- Starting with Science, here we will be considering the Big Bang theory. Unlike the children’s story of all matter and energy contained to a tiny dot that got hot then exploded, the real big bang theory is much more radical than that. The true big bang theory states that all matter and energy along with time and space all came into

existence simultaneously. Before this there was nothing, no dot to float around in space. This is a huge admission by cosmology and science. The Big Bang is a great proof of the Biblical claim of creation ex nihilo. In 1989, John Maddox, the editor of *Nature* (a world renown science journal) wrote a piece entitled '*Down with the Big Bang*' In it he states "Apart from being philosophically unacceptable, the Big Bang is an over-simple view of how the Universe began, and it is unlikely to survive the decade ahead... Creationists ... seeking support for their opinions have ample justification in the Big Bang." Notice what Maddox says, that Creationists have justification for their opinion namely that the universe was created sometime in the definite past.

- Traditionally there are Five proofs for the big bang theory. A good way to remember them is the acronym S.U.R.G.E.
 - S. – Second law of Thermal Dynamics(entropy and heat death)
 - This Law states that the universe is running out of usable energy. Like a running car the universe will one day run out of gas. This means that the universe had to be started up some time in the near past or we would have run out by now. Also that things left to themselves tend to disorder, since there is still order the universe is still relatively young.
 - U. – Universe is expanding
 - The universe is actually growing and new space is being created every day. We can trace back the growth to the origin at the center of the universe. The rate of expansion is a set rate that grows at a steady pace.
 - R. – Radiation from the explosion(back ground)
 - If the universe exploded into existence then we should see radiation on a cosmic firestorm level. Much to our surprise when we got to space we found radiation, EVERYWHERE, from every angle, like an ether permeating throughout the universe.
 - G. – Galaxy seed beds
 - Basically the idea is that if galaxies formed after the bang we would see ripples in the radiation. Well we do and they are so precise that some have called them the finger prints of the maker.
 - E. – Einstein's theory of relativities

- Not to be confused with his special theory of relativity. In his special version he divided by zero to avoid an unsettling conclusion that the universe had a beginning and therefore needed a creator.
- The implication of the big bang is that the universe had an absolute beginning and before it did nothing existed including time. This means that the universe needed a cause to bring it into existence.
- Next we consider philosophy. One philosophic argument is that it is impossible to traverse an infinite. If the past were infinite we would never have existed. Like a never ending marathon where the finish line always moves as well as the start line. The runners could never start the race, finish or pass anything.
 - This is similar to the science argument related to the second law of thermal dynamics and the universe is expanding.
- Last of all Theology, “In the Beginning” is the first phrase found in the Bible. The word translated beginning is the Hebrew – Reshiyth – meaning; (the first, in place, time, order or rank; beginning, chief, first, principle thing.) Traditionally this has been explained as the first moments of time, space, matter and energy. Before this beginning nothing existed except the self-existent triune God. At first this was not accepted as Kreeft and Tacelli state in their book *Handbook of Christian Apologetics* “When Jewish and Christian theologians first talked to Greek philosophers, the Greeks thought the biblical notion that God created the world ex nihilo (“out of nothing”) was absurd and irrational, because it violated a law of nature that ex nihilo nihil fit (“out of nothing nothing comes”).” This law is a true law of nature and still holds true today. So why is the concept of creation ex nihilo not irrational and does not in fact break this law?
 - Because God, if he exists, is all powerful and cannot be expected to be contained to laws of nature he created.
 - Because Creation ex nihilo, doesn’t actually break this law since, there was a God to create and therefore a sufficient cause existed.

❖ **This brings us to our next split. Was this begging Caused or Uncaused?**

Job 38.3-4 – “Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding.”

- This one seems obvious so I won’t spend much time on it. Just as with the last split Science, Philosophy and Theology all agree that the universe must have a cause. NOTHING comes into existence without a sufficient reason for doing so. We know that every action has a reaction and for every effect there must be a cause of that effect.

- ❖ **The final split is was the cause to the beginning of the existent universe personal or impersonal? Did someone design and create it, or did some random directionless force do it?**
 - The problem here is that if someone has been paying attention down through this argument, science, philosophy, and theology have all been in agreement on which option you should chose. Every other option ends in despair and pointlessness. This is why many atheists live in despair and write about the hopelessness of our situation. A random, directionless force, if it could pre-exist the universe; cannot do anything, if it has nothing to effect. That is to say if there was no matter, space or time (Nothing), then the force would do nothing because it couldn't. The only option available is that a person willed it.

Concluding remarks

- ❖ One thing I want to draw attention to is the fact that the big bang theory matches almost verbatim to the creation narrative only stopping short of saying God did it. This is interesting to me that the Bible claims God created everything, and before this there was nothing. So does the big bang, it also says that everything came into existence in one massive explosion of being while the bible says God spoke it into existence. One interesting coincidence is that scientist claim there were 6 singularities that preceded immediately before the big bang, so that the explosion is the 7th, odd number. A little conspiratorial but I found it interesting. So my conclusion is that the Bible claims God created ex nihilo and in the big bang we find proof of this actually happening.
- ❖ Finally I want to look at the implications of the Cosmological argument in comparison to the scriptures. Certain attributes of this personal creator can be brought to light when we reflect on the argument. Do these attributes match what the Bible teaches about God?
 - The cosmo proves a person created everything ex nihilo. Gen 1.1 says there was a beginning and God was that creator.
 - This had to be a person to choose to create. This person had to have a will or volition. Job 38 which we referenced before says God designed the universe. He uses the imagery of a builder measuring and leveling the world.
 - He must be incredibly powerful to create out of nothing but his own power. Gen 18.26 tells us nothing is too hard for him while Matt 19.26 says all things are possible with him. Job 26.14 says his power is beyond understanding
 - To create with such precision and design he must be immensely intelligent. Psalms 147.5 describes his wisdom as infinite
 - To create time he must be eternal or non-temporal. Rom 1.20 says his eternal power, Isa 26.4 says everlasting

- To create all matter and space he cannot be corporeal or take up space John 4. 24 says God is a Spirit. A spirit by definition is not any physical object made up of matter.

- If the world is designed then the world can have purpose I could give dozens of references for this the Bible is screaming out what the purpose is. I Tim 1.17 –“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen”
 - Our existence is to bring honor and glory to our creator. This is why the world rejects God. Because we come to realize that the universe does not revolve around us (as many flat Earthers like to believe) but centers in Christ and the God who made it all and deserves all. This realization means I am not number one, but a servant to a higher authority. This authority trumps all men, systems, governments and kingdoms. This authority calls all men to react to the gospel to follow God or reject him. This authority says we exist bring him glory and not to glory in self. For most people this realization is unacceptable.

 - C.S. Lewis once said “there are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “thy will be done” and those to whom God says, “thy will be done.” All that are in Hell, choose it.” Again he says elsewhere that “I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end: that the doors of hell are locked on the inside.” Here on Lewis’ view as well as mine people willingly choose Hell as the better option for themselves. God gives men many proofs of his existence in nature as well as a written revelation in scripture, but God is not in the business of forcing us to choose but allowing all men the chance to respond to the gospel and accept him. Sadly some, nah most never will.