

- ◆ **Intro:**(explain sermon parts & technicalities.). I'm going to play you a video to a song by the Barenaked Ladies. Don't be alarmed, the singers are four very clothed men. Their song is the theme song of a hit TV comedy in its twelfth season (2019). It's so popular that the star character and a few others make more than a million dollars for every silly episode! (The rest of the characters only make several hundred thousand per episode, so they may need our prayers.) See if you know the show this song is from. (play Big Bang Theory theme song) Well, today we consider the question "Why believe in the existence of God? Believe it or not, we are going to start with the Big Bang!
- ◆ Now we openly admit that we cannot prove the existence of God. That is, we cannot put him in a test tube and study him, or unequivocally demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that God exists. He is not at our command; we are at his. But what we can do is observe how belief in a Creator God actually accounts for the data around us better than the alternatives. He has left us many clues, and his fingerprints are everywhere.
- ◆ **Clue 1. The Big Bang**
- ◆ Now some Christians hear the term Big Bang and immediately think it's anti-Christian, contradicts their faith, and is synonymous with belief in evolutionism. But as it turns out the big bang theory and evolutionism are not complimentary theories, that is, they do not support each other. Evolutionism

says that matter is eternal, and all that exists (“religion or astronomy, Descartes or Deuteronomy”) has developed over huge amounts of time by random, natural selection in which non-living elements accidentally combined eventually forming animate or living microbes (btw, the leap from something not alive (inorganic) to suddenly becoming something that is living (organic) has never been documented by science). These further became, again purely by natural selection, more and more complex living organisms over time, the fittest of which survived while the weak perished. In contrast, Christianity obviously disagrees since God’s Word clearly teaches that God is the only essence that is eternal, and that he created all matter purposefully in time and space.

◆ “For this is what the LORD says--he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited--he says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob’s descendants, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.” Isaiah 45:18, 19, NIV.

◆ What many Christians don’t know is that the theory called the Big Bang actually supports the beliefs of the Christian faith and

has been systematically dismantling evolutionism the more we learn.

◆ In the 1920s, Astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered the phenomena known as the red shift. Light from distant galaxies shifts to red on the light spectrum, indicating the universe is expanding. (When something is moving away from us, it's light waves are more separated causing it to appear further toward the red end of the light spectrum.) Since then astrophysicists have established in voluminously more detail that the universe is indeed expanding. Now if you work backwards you arrive at the conclusion that everything that currently exists began at some point in space-time and erupted out of nothing into a rapidly expanding universe. Einstein postulated this in his Theory of General Relativity. The slang term for that starting point of created reality is "the big bang." Christian geneticist Francis Collins in his book, *The Language of God* summarizes it like this.

◆ "Fifteen billion years ago, the universe began with an unimaginably bright flash of energy from an infinitesimally small point. That implies that before that, there was nothing. I can't imagine how nature, in this case the universe, could have created itself. And the very fact that the universe had a beginning implies that someone was able to begin it."

◆ Now regardless of how old you think the earth is, the more we study life's origins, the more weight stacks up on the side of a Creator God. In fact, the atheist astronomer Geoffrey Burbidge complained that his peers were rushing off the join the "First Church of Christ of the Big Bang." In 1989 John Maddox wrote an article entitled "Down with the Big Bang." He conceded that creationists beliefs have ample justification in the big bang theory. In his words it implies an ultimate origin of our world who's cause or Causer lies beyond the universe. Atheist Steven Hawkings likewise said, in his best selling *A Brief History of Time*, "Many people do not like the idea that time had a beginning probably because it smacks of divine intervention." And there are numerous other examples.

◆ *"...what may be known about God is plain to [man], because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:19, 20, NIV.*

◆ Now the Big Bang theory does not prove the existence of a God, but it sure is a big clue, perhaps one of the biggest.

◆ **Clue 2. Cause**

◆ The Law of Causality and the Law of Contingency state that all things have a cause, that all things in the observable world are contingent upon other things for existence. That is, water

cannot exist with hydrogen and oxygen combining. It cannot become steam without heat, at least at our normal atmospheric pressure. Plants cannot exist without nutrients, carbon dioxide, etc. And nothing happens without a cause, and nothing can exist on it's own accord. That being true, then the universe itself must also have a cause according to the laws of science. Now, *whoever or whatever pulled the trigger on the Big Bang is either part of the universe, or not part of the universe. If it is part of the universe it is contingent on other things in the universe and thus cannot be the cause of the universe.* If it is outside the universe as we know it, it must be non-contingent on anything in created reality, unbound by space and time, outside of nature or supernatural, and self-sustaining, -which when you think about it sounds an awful lot like what we call "God."

- ◆ Another clue to the God of the Bible. Of all holy books, only the Bible unambiguously states that time is finite (it had a start date and will have an end date), that it has a beginning, and the God created it, and that God is beyond it (Genesis 1:1).
 - ◆ "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." Hebrews 11:3, NIV.
 - ◆ *"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created*

by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:16, 17, NIV.

◆ **Clue 3. Intelligent Design.**

◆ Our text in Psalm 19 tells us that the *"heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim his handiwork."* and that they pour forth speech in every language! How true! The more we find out about the cosmos the more reason we actually have for believing in God. Even the staunch atheists agree that there is remarkable order, regularity, and complexity to the cosmos. We know that if the moon were not exactly where it is, the gravitational change would not support life on planet Earth. Water (necessary for biological life) expands when frozen rather than contracts like other substances, a fact that makes life on Earth possible. For a planet to be inhabitable, there is an exact position it must be from the star it circles for liquid water to exist. If our earth were a degree closer to the sun our world would burn up. A degree further and we'd freeze over. Prominent physicist John Wheeler, and Freeman Dyson said it's as though the universe knew we humans were coming. Atheist Fred Hoyle said

◆ "I do not believe the any scientist who examined the evidence would fail to draw the inference that the laws of nuclear physics have been deliberately designed." -Strange language for scientists.

- ◆ Considering the Law of entropy which says things go from a state of order to disorder, if everywhere we look and measure data we find phenomenal and intricate design isn't it reasonable to believe that there is a designer behind it?
- ◆ The classic scenario is presented by William Paley who postulated that if you were walking along and found a stone you might assume that it had been there forever and without particular intervention by anyone. But if you were walking along and found a watch you would certainly not assume that it had always been as it was, or that it formed itself over a long period of time from the jumbling of dust and sand. All the intricate springs and gears and levers clearly suggest that someone put these things together. When we look at nature we find intricacy that vastly outweighs the most complicated designs humans have ever engineered.
 - ◆ For the last two decades, writes astrophysicist Hugh Ross, biochemists have possessed X-ray scanning electron microscopes so powerful they can map complex biological molecules down to the level of their individual atoms. One team from Japan has mapped a perfect example of nature's own rotary engine in an enzyme called F1-ATPase, no bigger than 10 billionths by 10 billionths by 8 billionths of a meter. This tiny motor includes the equivalent of an engine block, a drive shaft

and 3 pistons! Nobody would claim that a Mazda rotary engine made itself.

- ◆ Again, while this may not convince every earthling that there is a God, the incomprehensibly complex design of so much that we see is a huge clue for believing in God.
- ◆ **Conclusion:** What does this all mean for you and me? Some years ago the Russian Cosmonauts after returning from space proudly announced that they looked around and they didn't see God anywhere. Ruth Graham declared in response that she wished they had stepped out of their space capsule without their suits on because then they would have met God right away!
- ◆ This brings up a significant truth. No living person can tell you exactly what is on the other side of death. Still the religions of the world believe that God/heaven/eternity, however they describe him/it, resides there. Each one of us will only find out about that for sure by dying first. Which brings us to another clue or reasonable answer to the question "Why believe in God?" called... **Pascal's Wager**
- ◆ Blaise Pascal, inventor, mathematician, physicist and theologian in 1600's put it like this: If you choose to believe in God and he doesn't exist, you've lost nothing when you die. (You merely cease to exist like the secular person thinks.) If you decide against him and he does exist, your lost everything,

for God has made it clear in his Word that acceptance and belonging to him is the only way to live on eternally.

◆ “[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought *life and immortality* to light through the gospel.” 2

Timothy 1:9, 10, NIV.

◆ That’s right. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the promise of life and immortality. Therefore if you place your faith in God and He does exist, you’ve gained eternity and all the Heavenly Father provides.

◆ “This is what the LORD says--your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.” Isaiah 48:17, 18, NIV.

◆ Now that doesn’t in itself prove the existence of God, but it does provide a significant reason to consider faith in Christ. Christ came for the survival of the weakest sinner. Christ said that if you believe on him even though you die, yet you will

live. If there is a God, and specifically if Christianity is right, your eternal existence whether beautiful or ugly, heaven or hell depends on your response to him. Seek him! I proclaim to you today, Christ is the center of the cosmos!