

Examining the Cosmos

Session 3

Conditions on the Early Earth

Recommended Reading

Hugh Ross, *The Creator and the Cosmos*, (Chapters 1-16), (NAV PRESS, 2001)

Hugh Ross, *A Matter of Days* (Chapters 13 - 16),

Summary of Biblical Material on Origins and Natural History

THE UNIVERSE

- Began (once) in finite time
- Coincides, at its beginning, with the beginning of space and time
- Is made from that which is immaterial
- Continuously expands from the beginning
- Is governed by constant laws of physics
- Manifests precise fine-tuning for humanity's benefit
- Has enormous volume, encompassing an "uncountable" (to ancient peoples) Number of stars.
- Contains stars that differ from one another
- Will someday cease to exist, though people will not

EARTH

- Emerged from the cosmos at a specific time
- Was enshrouded at its beginning by an opaque cloud cover
- Began with an ocean that covered the whole surface
- Was/is precisely fine-tuned for humanity's benefit
- Contains the resources essential for launching and sustaining human civilization.
- Has a sun and moon and other astronomical companions specially designed to benefit life and humanity
- Carries finite resources and time-limiting conditions for sustaining human civilization.

SUMMARY OF ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE

- As we discuss the origins of the universe, the big bang cosmology is the best response to what we see in nature and what we read in the bible. It is amazing that over 2500 years ago the Bible had it right. Now, the majority in the scientific community would agree that the order of events is very similar to what the bible states.
- My understanding of the “Anthropic Principle”: how the fine tuning of all historical events has always been “man-centered”, has been enriched. God moved the various events, (time periods), along at what really was the fastest times possible. God had to provide the proper environment for humans to live on this planet. It was His plan to bring humans to know Him, and for Him to provide salvation for us.
- Also the Anthropic Principle shows that humans live in the best possible time of the 13-14 billion years of universe history.
- We have the most optimum, ideal opportunity to understand our origin and the big bang. Earlier in time we would not have understood how vast the universe is because the technology would not have been available. Later in time, if God did not intervene, the universe will have pulled apart so drastically that we also could not tell what had been and how it started.
- The big bang cosmology shows so much proof for God; it cannot be seen as an atheistic cosmology. No time in history has so much research, technology and knowledge been available to show that the big bang substantiates God, as creator and sustainer of this universe.
- The more we learn about big bang cosmology the more it points to God’s existence and His design of the universe.
- The universe is not eternal: this fact can be addressed from a scientific and also from a biblical perspective.
- Science tells us and the bible confirms that this universe:
 - a. had a transcendent cosmic beginning that occurred a finite time age
 - b. a continuous universal cosmic expansion
 - c. a cosmic cooling from an extremely hot initial state
- Scientific studies have proven the Laws of General Relativity, implying a beginning and an expanding universe. Einstein’s theory has been proven so many times and so many different ways. It is now a fact, not just a theory.
- Hubble discovered that galaxies were moving away from us, and those the farthest moved the fastest, showing expansion or a stretching of the universe.
- By radio astronomy we know the Quasars are moving away at extremely rapid speeds.
- Probably the most convincing evidence was the confirmation of an extremely, almost infinite hot creation event and the knowledge of how stars and galaxies formed and the current local temperature in space. The Cosmic Background

Explorer, COBE, achieved these feats! The more recent satellite results from WMAP, mapping of the temperature of the universe, has shown “hot spots” from which matter formed to become stars, galaxies, etc.

- The Bible, 3000 years earlier, by many authors told us a similar history of our universe. Isaiah 42:5 explains the God who created the heavens also stretches them out.
- Isaiah 45:5-22, John 1:3, Col: 15-17 restates that God alone created the universe: Heb.11:13 tells us that God created and made from that which we cannot measure or detect.
- Many verses refer to the expansion or stretching out of the universe: Job 9:8, Psalm 104:2, Isaiah 40:22, 42:5, 44:24, 48:13, 51:13 and some tell us it was God alone.
- Other verses tell us that the universe operates within the Laws of Thermodynamics, gravity and electromagnetism: as the universe expands it must cool down. It will decay and as time proceeds, we will see more chaos, more disorder, more of a run down order of things, Rom: 8:21, Jeremiah 33:25.
- The end will come; 2Peter3:10, God will provide for us; Rev.21:1
- To those secular evolutionists that understand that this universe is finite, they must wonder about their fate. The Christian view provides the only solution; we have the answer: it is in Christ, our Savior and redeemer.