

# Christian Apologetics

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# Week One Review:

- Defined Apologetics in context of 1 Peter 3:15-16 “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”
- We looked at the reasons for defending our faith
  - Scriptural mandate
  - Building up one another in the faith
  - The world needs it
- The results of our efforts are up to God, so even if we are new to defending the faith, God can use our efforts for His glory.

# Week Two Review:

- Truth is absolute (all truth is God's truth). We can use our senses and logical reasoning to determine what matches reality and therefore discover truth.
- The consequences for relativism are counter to how people actually live. Everyone lives as if there is an absolute right or wrong, not as if Hitler and Mother Teresa were moral equivalents.
- Truth is not relative. Most statements concerning relativism are self-defeating (they contradict themselves). We can use the road runner tactic to show that they collapse under their own weight.

# Objectives for Today:

- To introduce the 3 classic arguments for God's existence.
- To look in detail at the "creation" argument for God's existence.

# Introduction

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- The Big Three Arguments for the existence of God
  - Creation
  - Design
  - Morality

# Arguments from Creation

- General Premise: Since universe had a beginning and therefore had a cause. That cause was God.
- Basis of the argument: Principle of Causality, which states that everything that begins has a cause.

# Historical Background

- The Creation argument is the oldest of the three classic arguments for God's existence.
- Even before the scientific evidence we have today, philosophers debated the creation argument from the perspective that time can not go into the past forever (its a little bizarre to understand much less teach, so we will skip it!).
- After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Dark Ages set in on the western world (600 – 1000 AD). The creation argument was actually preserved by the Muslims and reintroduced into western thought in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. This is why this argument is now known as the “kalam” (Arabic for eternal) cosmological argument.

# Scientific Evidence for a Beginning to Our Universe

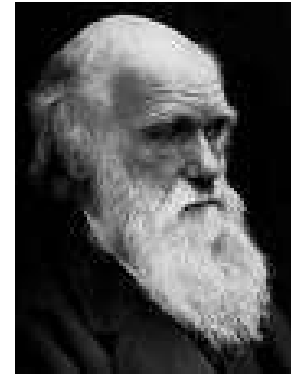
- Today it is much easier to argue for a beginning to our universe.
- Modern science points towards a beginning.

# Christianity and Science

- Modern Christianity has an anti-intellectual bent to it. This bent has caused us to be not only skeptical towards science, but hostile to what it has to share with us.
- We sometimes feel that it is a show of spiritual strength that our faith is “blind”.
- This flies in the face of scripture that commands us to be ready with a defense of why we believe (1 Peter 3:15) and exhorts us to love God with all our “minds” (Mt 22:37).

# Good Science and Bad Science

- Good Science – that which is supported by evidence
- Bad Science – that which has little or no evidential support
- Evolution is bad science (we will discuss in detail later).
- Theory of Relativity is good science.
- Darwin was no Albert Einstein and the Big Bang does not equal evolution.



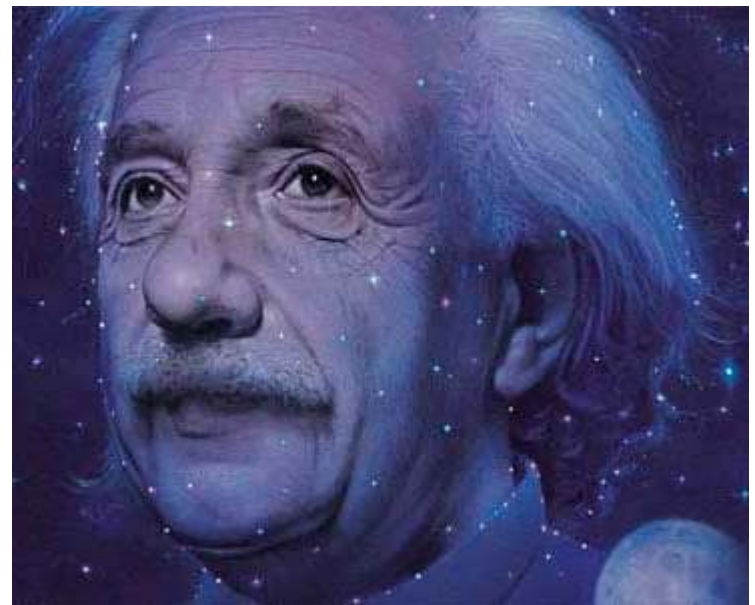
# Before the Big Bang Theory

- Secular scientists believed the universe was eternal
- Carl Sagan believed in the eternal universe
- Christians have long denied this on the basis of biblical revelation
- Science actually supports the biblical account of creation.
- “In the beginning...Bang?”



# Albert Einstein's “irritating” discovery

- The Theory of General Relativity was proposed in 1916 by Albert Einstein.
- He didn't like what the numbers were telling him.
- He thought the universe was eternal (didn't have a beginning or end).
- His formulas pointed to the opposite.
- He was so irritated by his discovery that he created a ‘fudge’ factor to avoid the problem.



# Why was Einstein irritated?

- If the universe is not eternal, then it had a beginning.
- If something has a beginning, it must have a cause (a Beginner).
- His theory was pointing to a Beginner which meant that the universe had to be caused by something outside itself.

# Fudge Factor is proved wrong!

- In 1922 a Russian mathematician officially exposed Einstein's fudge factor to be in error. Einstein had divided by zero.
- Einstein later admitted that his fudge factor was “the greatest blunder of my life”.

# Evidence for the validity of Einstein's theory



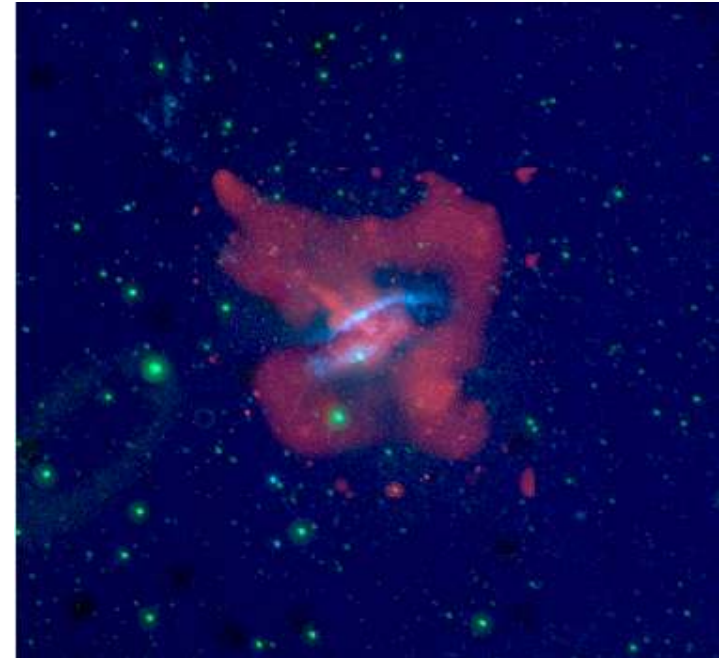
- In 1920, scientists used Einstein's theory to predict that the universe should be expanding.
- This implied that if we go far enough back in history, we come to a place where there is a beginning out of nothing! Fred Hoyle called in the "Big Bang" (an unfortunate term which implies a chaotic nature to the event, it was anything but chaotic!).
- In 1927, Edwin Hubble (the guy we named the space telescope after) looked through a large telescope at Mount Wilson Observatory and discovered a "red shift" in the light from every observable galaxy.
- This meant those galaxies were moving away from us (like the sound of a train as it passes you).



# And still more evidence



- In 1965, two Bell Lab scientists detected strange background radiation on their antenna.
- No matter which way they turned the antenna, the radiation remained.
- The radiation they discovered (which they thought at first was bird poop), is technically known as cosmic background radiation.
- This afterglow is actually the light and heat from the initial explosion of the universe.
- The Bell Lab scientists won the Nobel prize for their discovery.
- This background radiation was predicted in 1945 using Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

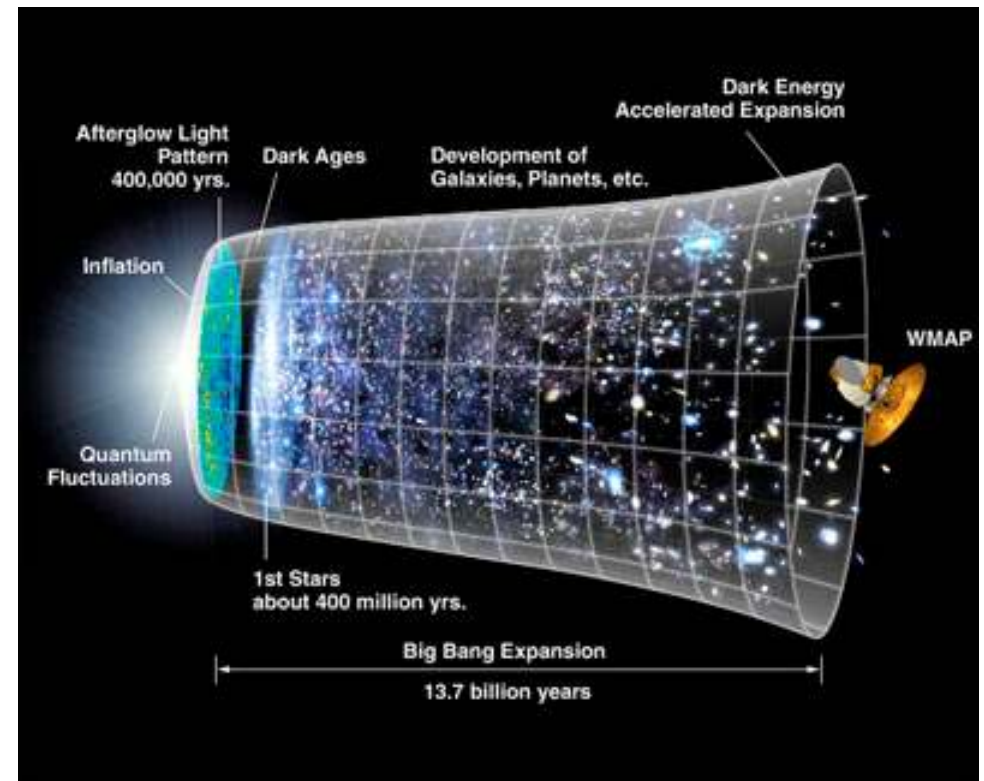




## And the last evidence...for now!



- In 2003, NASA's WMAP Satellite (Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe) confirmed the findings of COBE.
- It returned images 35 times sharper than COBE's of the background radiation ripples predicted by the Big Bang.



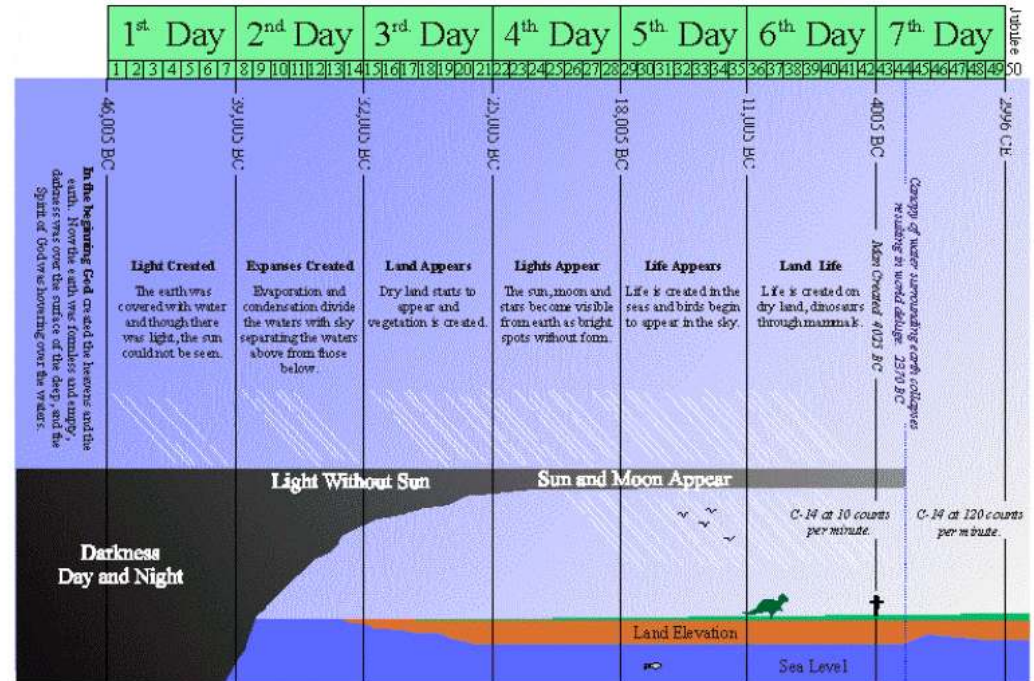
# Conclusion

- Theory of Relativity accurately predicts what we see in our universe.
- It clearly points to a point in time when the universe had a beginning.
- Anything that had a beginning must have had a “beginner” or cause.
- God is the cause.
- Stephen Hawking wrote “It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.” (Briefer History of Time)
- It is now the atheist that must maintain by faith that the universe did not have a beginning.
- The Christian can stand confidently on the Biblical truth about God’s creation (as we have always done).



# What about the 6 days?

- How long God took to do it is not relevant to the discussion of the facts concerning His existence.
- All the evidence still points to a creator!
- Don't let your belief in 6 literal days kill the opportunity to discuss modern science (the good kind) with a non-believer.



# For next week...

God:



Can we prove He exists (part 2)?