

# “Science and God’s Revelation in Nature”

## Session 3 in the Christianity and Science Series

Series Webpage: [www.richknopp.com/lcc-science/](http://www.richknopp.com/lcc-science/)

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[www.RoomForDoubt.com](http://www.RoomForDoubt.com)

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### Introduction

- A. Mentimeter audience interaction. Use QR code  
OR ... go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use code 6867 3365.
- B. Previous sessions:
  - 1. Session 1: “Christianity and the Nature and History of Science.”
  - 2. Session 2: “Science and Biblical Creation: Interpreting Scripture.”
- C. Session 3: “Science and God’s Revelation in Nature.”
- D. **Two types of divine revelation:**
  - 1. **Special:** Revelation in history to \_\_\_\_\_ persons or groups at distinct times and places (e.g., divine miracles, the incarnation, the inspiration of Scripture) [Ex. 3:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21].
  - 2. **Natural:** Revelation in nature (natural world, reason, conscience) to \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. **Key biblical passages** about God’s revelation in nature.
  - 1. Psalm 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God ....”
  - 2. Romans 1:19-20 “... [God’s] invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made....”
  - 3. Acts 14:16-17 “... [God] did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons ....”
- F. The phenomenal array of nature’s complexity, beauty, and function!



### I. The Origin of the Universe

- A. Scripture points to a \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Isaiah 45:12; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3).
- B. Science points to a \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. The development of the “\_\_\_\_\_” idea.
  - 1. 19<sup>th</sup> century: The universe is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. The “Big Bang” is \_\_\_\_\_ (Edwin Hubble in the 1920s).
  - 3. The “Big Bang” is \_\_\_\_\_.

Fred Hoyle: “The Big Bang theory requires a recent origin of the universe that openly invites the concept of creation” (*The Intelligent Universe*, 237).

John Maddox, former editor of the journal *Nature*: The idea of a Big Bang is “thoroughly unacceptable” because it implies an “ultimate origin of our world” and gives creationists “ample justification” for their beliefs (cited in Lennox, *God’s Undertaker*, 68).

- 4. The “Big Bang” \_\_\_\_\_ (1960s discovery by Penzias and Wilson; the Cosmic Background Explorer [COBE] satellite project).

George Smoot, leader of the COBE project: “What we found is evidence for the birth of the universe.... If you’re religious, it’s like looking at God.”

Robert Jastrow: “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries” (*God and the Astronomers*, 116).

- D. Science and Christianity agree: The universe \_\_\_\_\_ .
1. A simple argument for God (see William Lane Craig and [www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org)).
    - a. Whatever *begins to exist* must have a cause.
    - b. The universe *began to exist*.
    - c. Therefore, the universe had a cause (> God).
  2. Non-creationist options:
    - a. Our universe is eternal (e.g., Steady State theory of Fred Hoyle).
    - b. Our universe caused itself (e.g., Stephen Hawking).
    - c. Our universe is part of an eternal cycle of universe collapse and big bangs (e.g., Roger Penrose).
    - d. Our universe is just one of an *infinite* number of universes that pop into existence (e.g., Alex Rosenberg).

**Stephen Hawking** (atheist): "Bodies such as stars or black holes cannot just appear out of nothing. But a whole universe can.... Because there is a law like gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing" (*The Grand Design*, 180; emphasis added).

**Alex Rosenberg** (atheist): "Why is there a universe at all? No reason at all. Why is there a multiverse in which universes pop into existence for no reason at all? No reason at all! (Alex Rosenberg, *The Atheist's Guide to Reality: Enjoying Life without Illusions*, Kindle, pp. 38-39).

### 3. Non-creationist motivations.

**Aldous Huxley** (1894-1963): "... I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently, I assumed it had none.... We don't know because we don't want to know. It is our will that decides how and upon what subjects we shall use our intelligence. Those who detect no meaning in the world generally do so because, for one reason or another, it suits their books that the world should be meaningless" (*Ends and Means*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., p. 312; cited in Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 143).

**Thomas Nagel**: "... I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers.... It isn't just that I don't believe in God .... It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that." (*The Last Word*, 130).

- E. The wonders of the universe: Its size and beauty!
- F. The wonders of the universe lead to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 8:3-4).

## II. The Origin of Life

- A. Science reveals that the universe began JUST \_\_\_\_\_ for life ("fine-tuning" of the universe: the "Goldilocks Principle" or the Anthropic Principle).
1. Precise physical constants (dozens of them).
  2. Examples (e.g., expansion rate of the universe, strength of gravity, number of electrons to protons (e.g., illustration of dimes).

**Fred Hoyle** (atheist): Chance of life starting on earth? One in 10 to the 40,000<sup>th</sup> power!

"A common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a **superintellect has monkeyed with physics**, as well as with chemistry and biology, and there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature" (emphasis added).

3. Biblical connection (Isa. 45:18): "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!). I am the Lord, and there is no other."
- B. The wonders of DNA.
1. Life requires:
    - a. The right *environment*.
    - b. The right *materials* (i.e., life uses 20 different L-amino acids or "left-handed") to form proteins. (Typical free-living bacteria (e.g., E. coli) has ~4,000 protein-coding genes.)
    - c. The right *sequencing* of amino acids.
    - d. The right *information* to instruct the right sequencing, so the amino acids can fold correctly into proteins, the basic building blocks of life.

2. DNA contains the information/instructions for protein construction, etc.
3. The DNA in one human body, if stretched end-to-end, would reach over \_\_\_\_\_ billion miles!
4. One gram of DNA could store the same amount of information as 8.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Blu-ray movies.
5. DNA could store all of the world's data in one room! (*Science Magazine*, Mar. 2, 2017).

C. How did DNA get its phenomenal amount of information?

**Bill Gates:** "DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created" (*The Road Ahead*, 228).

**Francis Crick** (atheist and co-discoverer of DNA): "An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense . . . [the origin of life] is 'almost a miracle.' ... Every time I write a paper on the origin of life, I swear I will never write another one, because there is too much speculation running after too few facts" (*Life Itself: Its Origin and Nature*, 88, 153).

**Antony Flew** (at age of 81 converted from atheism to theism): "I think the most impressive arguments for God's existence are those that are supported by recent scientific discoveries.... I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite Intelligence. I believe that this universe's intricate laws manifest what scientists have called the Mind of God" (*There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*, p. 88).

### III. Biblical Connections and Reflections

- A. Science and Scripture agree!
  1. The universe **BEGAN**.
  2. The universe is **JUST RIGHT** for human life.
  3. Life requires information (> intelligence).
- B. Implications regarding God.
  1. God \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. God is self-existent and \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17a; Ex. 3:14).
  3. God is all \_\_\_\_\_ (omnipotent) (Jer. 32:17; Matt. 19:26)
  4. God is all \_\_\_\_\_ (omniscience) (1 John 3:20; Matt. 10:29-30; Ps. 139:1-4; Matt. 9:4).
  5. God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Implications for YOU.
  1. God's **omnipotence** means that he \_\_\_\_\_ take care of you.
  2. God's **omniscience** means that he \_\_\_\_\_ to take care of you.
  3. God's **complete goodness** means that he \_\_\_\_\_ take care of you.
  4. You can \_\_\_\_\_ God.

### Recommended Resources

- Richard A. Knopp. "Science and Christianity Video Collection" of 13 videos (<https://roomfordoubt.com/science-christianity>).
- Room For Doubt Animation: "Why Do You Still Believe?" (<https://vimeo.com/327406232>)
- Richard A. Knopp. *Truth About God: What Can We Know and How Can We Know It?* Six short videos are available. Especially see "Truth About God in Nature." (<https://roomfordoubt.com/truth-about-god>).
- [www.RoomForDoubt.com/recommended-resources/science-and-the-christian-faith](http://www.RoomForDoubt.com/recommended-resources/science-and-the-christian-faith).

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