

What Does the Bible Teach About the Universe?

(October 7, 2021 Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the Trilacoochee church of Christ
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Introduction:

A. What is the Universe?

1. "The universe is all of space and time and their contents, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy."
(Wikipedia)
2. From the Biblical perspective it is everything that is "heavens" (or not the earth) bound by the laws of God that govern matter, energy, space, and time.
 - a. It is a realm where human life cannot exist unaided, hostile to our existence.
 - b. It is incredibly vast, unreachable, and unconquerable by any means available to humankind.
 - c. It is not the Divine realm, but the Divine created, sustains, controls, and permeates it.
 - d. It is a realm that emphasizes our minute condition and our utter dependence on God for meaning and purpose.

I. HOW SMALL WE ARE IN THIS UNIVERSE!

- A. Human Beings on the Lower Slope of Mount Everest
- B. Mount Everest from the Air
- C. Mount Everest from Space
- D. Mount Everest from Outer Orbit
- E. Earth Compared to the Sun
- F. Earth from Pluto's Outer Orbit
- G. The Sun from Pluto's Outer Orbit
- H. Sun in the Milky Way Galaxy
- I. Our Galaxy in the Local Group
- J. Our Local Group in the Virgo Supercluster
- K. Virgo Supercluster in Visible Universe

II. HOW BIG IS THE UNIVERSE?

- A. Distance from earth to the edge of the visible universe is 13,700,000,000 light years.
 1. Light travels 186,282 miles per second
 2. 5,878,625,370,000 miles per year
 3. It is 161,074,340,000,000,000,000 miles from one end of the visible universe to the other.
- B. If we could travel at the speed of light (impossible according to physics) it would take 27,400,000,000 years to make the trip.
- C. How big is God? - Isa. 40:12; Prov. 30:4
- D. How small we are! - Job 7:17; Psalm 144:3; Psalm 8:3-6

V. WHY DID GOD MAKE THE UNIVERSE SO BIG?

- A. As a home for humankind it is immensely overbuilt and unimaginably large.
 - 1. It is hubris to believe that God made the universe for us.
- B. The Bible states that He made the earth for us.
 - 1. Gen. 1:26-28; Psalm 115:16
- C. The universe was created to glorify God.
 - 1. Gen. 1:1; Psalm 19:1-4; Psalm 147:4; Isa. 40:26
 - 2. Heb. 1:3; Heb. 11:3; 2 Peter 3:7; Rom. 1:20
- D. Everywhere we look, the farther out we can see, there is a testimony of God.
 - 1. Magnetars
 - 2. The Pillars of Creation
 - 3. The Vela Pulsar (12 miles in diameter and rotates 11 times per second)
 - 4. Quasars (super massive black holes billions of times larger than our sun, consuming the entire energy output of four suns per minute)
- E. God created the universe as a testimony for Himself for the purpose of creating wonder and faith within humankind. He showed us His power in the heavens to move us to want to draw near Him and to be like Him.
 - 1. Isa. 45:12; Isa. 44:24
- F. The universe testifies that since God has the power to create something that great and glorious, He can resolve any matter humankind must bear.
 - Isa. 42:5-8; Psalm 75:1-3

VI. WHY DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

- A. He created it for Himself - Prov. 16:4; Rom. 11:36
- B. He created it as an act of His Own will - Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16
- C. He created it so that we might know Him - Psalms 104:24-31; Isa. 43:1-7

VII. WHAT IS OUR PLACE IN THIS UNIVERSE?

A. Carl Sagan, the American astronomer who rabidly opposed the Christian view of creation, was interviewed on the US TV program Dateline by Ted Koppel. That interview was only a few days before Sagan's death, though Sagan didn't know that he had less than a week to live. Koppel asked him if he had any closing remarks, any words of wisdom he would like to share with the people of the earth and this is what he said; "We live on a hunk of rock and metal that circles a humdrum star that is one of 400 billion other stars that make up the Milky Way galaxy which is one of billions of other galaxies which make up the universe which may be one of a very large number, perhaps an infinite number of other universes. That is a perspective on human life and our culture that is well worth pondering." In short:

- 1. We came from nowhere.
 - 2. We are going nowhere.
 - 3. There is no purpose in anything that we see around us.
 - 4. Life is meaningless.
 - 5. Humans are not special in any sense.
- B. How different is the perspective of Genesis 1.
- 1. There is a Creator.
 - 2. Humankind has a Maker.

3. God designed the universe for Himself and the earth for humankind.
 4. He made the earth unique amongst all the trillions of stars.
 5. Humans are very special, made in His Image.
 6. Our Maker is not silent but has spoken to us by His servants and Son.
- C. God's creation of the universe testifies:
1. That we are made in His image; we are not insignificant.
 2. That we have been given dominion and stewardship of the earth; we are not an evolutionary accident or a malignant force on this planet.
 3. That God loves us so much that He:
 - a. Made this world for our dwelling,
 - b. Made this universe to tell us about Himself,
 - c. Gave us His word to guide our existence,
 - d. And sent His Son to pay for our sins so that we can live with Him in His eternal realm.

VIII. OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!

- A. Psalm 47:2, 99:3, 111:9, 145:5