

Christian Apologetics
“*always be prepared to give a defense...*”

IV. Science, God and the Cosmos

The word *science* literally means “knowledge” and comes from the Latin word *scire*, “to know”. Most people *believe* that only what is scientifically verifiable is true. Unfortunately that statement is *philosophical* in nature. Furthermore, science is based on logic – which is part of the scientific method - but no scientific experiment can verify logic. Therefore, science in part, depends on *faith* in several assumptions:

- The universe is intelligible (understandable, logical) and not capricious (variable, whimsical and unpredictable)
- The mind and senses inform us about reality (what we see is really what is there)
- Mathematics and language can be applied to the world
- There is basic uniformity in nature that allows us to draw conclusions (inductive inferences) from the past to the future and from examined cases to unexamined

Since these assumptions are philosophical in nature, we need to examine scientific principles to see if they are valid or not. The first principle of science is *the principle of causality*.

The Principle of Causality

The principle of causality states that *every event has an adequate cause*. When we are looking for answers to explain things, we are usually looking *for what caused it*. (Example: what is a rainbow – a rainbow is an arc of spectral color formed by reflection, refraction and dispersion of the sun’s rays through mist or rain). The answer to what a rainbow *is*, is actually *what causes it*.

Can science determine past causes? *Operational science* is the kind of science that concerns itself with observable effects and repeatable events (actions and reactions) in the present physical world. But what about events that were not observed and are not repeatable? This kind of scientific method is called *origin science*. It is comparable to *forensic science* where investigators look at a singular event in the present and search for some intelligent cause in the past.

God and the Cosmos

The initial, primary two questions that we must address from a **logical** and a **scientific** perspective is the origin/existence of God and the origin of the cosmos (universe). To answer the first, we need to apply logic and reason as to the existence of God and His relation to the cosmos from four perspectives:

- First Cause
- Uncaused Being
- Intelligent Designer of the universe
- Author of the laws of nature/human nature

First Cause

The Bible tells us that God was the *cause* (creator) of the universe (*Genesis 1:1*). Was He? Or has the universe always existed or did it come into being by chance? But who or what caused God? And if something or someone caused God, who or what caused it and so on? Somewhere and sometime there has to be something **un-caused**, something upon which all things that need a cause are *dependent*, something that began it all – a First Cause. But if everything has a cause, how can there be a *first* cause?

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Uncaused Being

The issue of what caused God is a category issue. The principle of causality does not mean everything needs a cause, but everything that is *finite and limited*. God is *infinite* and as such, has *no beginning*. An infinite being must have always existed and is, therefore, uncaused. If it turns out that the universe has always existed, and did not have a beginning, then it would not need a cause either. However, if it can be shown that the universe had a beginning, then we can conclude that it must have had a cause.

Was there a beginning to the universe (cosmos)? Do the laws we discover in nature – which give order and structure to the universe – have their origin in the mind of a Designer or do they exist on their own? Scientific evidence substantiates the claim that the universe had a beginning. And if it did have a beginning, then it had a cause, and we must look outside of nature for the kind of cause it would take to bring it (the universe) into existence.

Next week we will look at the other two perspectives – Intelligent Designer and the Author of the laws of nature/human nature. Let’s close with a passage from Job.

Job 38:4-10, 22-27, 31-38

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone--while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,

"Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle? What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed, or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth? Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, to water a land where no man lives, a desert with no one in it, to satisfy a desolate wasteland and make it sprout with grass?

"Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up their dominion over the earth? "Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, 'Here we are'? Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to count the clouds? Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens when the dust becomes hard and the clods of earth stick together? (NIV)