

GOD IN THE UNIVERSE

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Introduction

Tendency to ignore God in media & education
Psalm 19:1-4: universe indicates God's glory to all
Romans 1:18-20: God's existence & power clear enough that all responsible for not believing

Existence of God seen in Universe running down

Stars shining (burning fuel) wherever we look
Compare this to clock running down or campfire burning out

Modern Attempts to avoid a Universe with a Beginning

Steady-State Theory (1948): Proposed by Bondi, Gold, Hoyle
Universe is infinitely large, infinitely old
Expansion matches rate at which matter pops into existence (non-supernatural creation)
BUT this theory doesn't fit strong evidence that universe was once more crowded than it is now

Big-Bang Theories (1930s on): Lemaitre, Gamow, Oepik
Universe immensely crowded at big bang, some 15-20 billion years ago
Lemaitre's (no bounce) version: big bang was creation event
Gamow's (one bounce) version: no beginning: contracting from eternity past to big bounce, now expanding
Öpik's (multi-bounce) oscillating version: no beginning, bounces every 100 billion years or so
Problems:
-not enough matter to stop expansion
-no reason to think bounces wouldn't die out eventually
-no known force to produce bounce
Result: only Lemaitre's creation version fits known data

Recent Theories (1980s): Gott, Guth, Hawking
See that universe began at big bang, but don't want creation, Creator
Try to argue universe began without a cause, or is part of an infinite universe

A Tour of the Universe - universe displays God's power, greatness, beauty, goodness

Earth: conditions just right; mankind small, environment fragile

Moon: see value of our atmosphere for breathing, moderating temperature, protecting from meteors

Mars: atmosphere too thin, too cold; no evidence of life

Venus: atmosphere too thick, too hot, too acidic

Outer planets: neither they nor their moons at all promising for life

Sun: our source of energy: equivalent to 2 billion 50 megaton H-bombs per second

Life zone: much smaller than once thought, about 5% of earth's orbit

Stars: some are 1000s of times more energetic than our sun, but use up their fuel too quickly

Supernovas: use up billion years worth of energy in one year

Galaxies: average 10-100 billion stars each; billions of galaxies in our universe

Conclusions

Strong evidence from universe for God's existence

God's power is seen in stars, supernovas, galaxies

God's greatness seen in immensity of universe

Wisdom, goodness of God seen in earth's environment, complexity of living things