

Life's Most Basic Questions: Part I

Acts 17:22-31

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** I admit that I have a problem that constantly bothers me.
 - A. Why do the vast majority of people not follow Christ?
 - B. Why does it seem most people don't believe in God?
 - (1) Some claim (arrogantly, I might add!) God does not exist (i.e., atheists).
 - (2) Some blame God and religion (esp. Christianity) for all the ills in the world.
 - (3) Most people simply ignore the whole God "thing."
 - (a) When asked, they probably would say "Yes, I believe God exists."
 - (b) But, in their day-to-day lives they totally ignore God.
2. I freely admit I think about this nearly every day.
 - A. I see very intelligent people, people that are, by the world's standards, "good people" (kind, generous, humble, etc.); yet they totally ignore God.
 - B. These folks are not "evil" (at least by the world's standards); they are productive members of society, they would be welcomed as neighbors.
 - C. But, again, they totally ignore God.
3. I wonder sometimes if these folks are paying attention.
 - A. ****** Surely, they've asked themselves the three most basic questions of life. Haven't they?
 - ❶ **How did I get here?**
 - ❷ **Why am I here?**
 - ❸ **Where am I going?**
 - B. Do they care about these questions? Or, are they just so busy living life they push these things to the "back burner"?
4. **3** Let's examine these three basic questions (first lesson in a series of lessons on "Evidences.").

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4** **How did I get here?**
 - A. There are only three possible explanations for the origin of the Universe:
 - ❶ The Universe is eternal.
 - ❷ The Universe created itself from nothing.
 - ❸ God created the Universe.
 - B. ****** The Bible says, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*" (Gen. 1:1)
 - C. You don't have to use the Bible to know God created the Universe: all you need to know are 3 of the most basic laws of physics and apply them using a little logic (i.e., common sense).
 - D. **5** Three basic laws of physics: Don't worry! They are actually very simple!
 - (1) ****** Law of Causality: every material effect has an antecedent adequate cause.
 - (i) Key words:

- ☛ “material effect”: material things are made of matter.
 - ☛ “antecedent...cause”: cause precedes the effect.
 - ☛ “adequate cause”: effect must be of sufficient magnitude to produce the cause (Me jumping up and down on the ground is not an adequate cause for an earthquake.).
- (ii) *Law of Causality* has been known and understood since antiquity. Plato and Aristotle wrote about it as long ago as 360-350 B.C.
- (iii) ****Fundamental principle upon which all the sciences are based. All the sciences would crumble to dust without it!).**
- **“Every student of logic knows that this is **the ultimate canon of the sciences**, the foundation of them all. If we did not believe the truth of causation, namely, everything which has a beginning has a cause, and that in the same circumstances the same things invariably happen, all the sciences would at once crumble to dust. In **every scientific investigation** this truth is assumed (1934, p. 6, emp. added).” (Stace, W.T. (1934), *A Critical History of Greek Philosophy* (London: Macmillan and Co.)**
- (iv) **** This law is consistent with Scripture:**
- Gen. 1:1:** “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”
- Heb. 3:4:** “*For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.*”
- (2) **6 First Law of Thermodynamics:** law of the conservation of mass and energy (****Matter and energy can neither be created or destroyed. Explain w/burning log example).**
- (a) This law is also consistent with Scripture: first part, creation of matter-energy...
- (i) **** Nothing can be created without God:**
- Jn. 1:3:** “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*”
- (ii) God ceased His creative work on the seventh day:
- Gen. 2:2:** “*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*”
- (iii) Since only God can create “new” matter or energy from nothing (Heb. 11:3), and He has ceased doing so, no new matter or energy can come into existence today.
- (b) **** Second part, destruction of matter-energy:**
- (i) Scripture tells us nothing ceases to exist; God upholds and sustains His creation:
- Heb. 1:3:** “*who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power...*”
- (ii) Also, God holds His creation “together”:
- Col. 1:17:** “*And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*”
- (c) **** Dr. Jason Lisle puts it so clearly:**
- “Neither matter nor energy will cease to exist, because God is sustaining them, and since nothing new will come into existence, we can conclude that the amount of material in the universe is constant. Of course, the Bible makes room for miracles—supernatural intervention by God, but miracles (by definition) do not conform to the laws of physics; they are exceptions by their very nature. The universe itself obeys the law of conservation of mass-energy.” (pp. 32-33; Lisle, Jason. 2018. *Taking Back Astronomy*. Masterbooks. Green Forest, AR.)

(3) **7 Second Law of Thermodynamics:** law of decreasing order (**All matter and energy tends toward disorder, less useful forms; continue w/burning log example; increased entropy)

(a) Einstein called it, “the premier law of all science.”

(b) Sir Arthur Eddington called it, “the supreme metaphysical law of the entire universe.”

(c) Isaac Asimov on the second law:

***“Another way of stating the Second Law then is ‘The universe is constantly getting more disorderly!’ Viewed that way we can see the Second Law all about us. We have to work hard to straighten a room, but left to itself it becomes a mess again very quickly and very easily. Even if we never enter it, it becomes dusty and musty. How difficult to maintain houses, and machinery, and our own bodies in perfect working order: how easy to let them deteriorate. In fact, all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself—and that is what the Second Law is all about (Asimov, Isaac, “In the Game of Energy and Thermodynamics You Can’t Even Break Even,” *Smithsonian Institute Journal*, pp. 4-10, June. 1970).

(d) ** This law is also consistent with Scripture:

Heb. 1:10-12: “And:

*‘You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
I I They will perish, but You remain;
And they will all grow old like a garment;
I 2 Like a cloak You will fold them up,
And they will be changed.
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail.’”*

E. Application of these three laws to explain the origin of the Universe:

(1) **8 Eternal Universe:**

(a) The Universe is a material effect; hence, it’s eternalness violates the *Law of Causality*; an eternal Universe would be a material effect without a cause.

(b) Empirical evidence tells us material effects without a cause are an impossibility! Who’s being unscientific?

(c) ** If the Universe were eternal it would also violate the *Law of Entropy*. If the Universe were eternal, all useable energy would have dissipated in an “eternity past.”

(2) **9 Universe created itself from nothing:** i.e., Big Bang theory. Is all we see just some grand cosmic accident?

(a) Violates the *Law of Causality*. What comes from “nothing”? NOTHING!

(b) Aristotle: “Nothing is what rocks dream about.”

(c) ** Robert Jastrow, founder and former director of the *Goddard Institute for Space Studies* at NASA, a materialist/naturalist, wrote:

“The Universe, and everything that has happened in it since the beginning of time, are a grand effect without a known cause. An effect without a known cause? That is not the world of science; it is a world of witchcraft, of wild events and the whims of demons, a medieval world that science has tried to banish. As scientists, what are we to make of this picture? I do not know.”

******“The seed of everything that has happened in the Universe was planted in that first instant; every star, every planet and every living creature in the Universe came into being as a result of events that were set in motion in the moment of the cosmic explosion...The Universe flashed into being, and we cannot find out what caused that to happen.”

- (d) ****** The “Big Bang” also violates the *First Law of Thermodynamics*: matter and energy can neither be created or destroyed. If so, energy and matter cannot spontaneously generate from “nothing.”
- (e) Empirical evidence tells us matter and energy cannot spontaneously generate; it’s an impossibility! Who’s being unscientific?
- (f) There are multiple problems with the “Big Bang” theory (Explain how scientists simply wave their hands and expect everyone to believe the “Big Bang” is true. For example, inflation, dark energy, dark matter.).

******“Be suspicious of a theory if more and more hypotheses are needed to support it as new facts become available, or as new considerations are brought to bear” (Sir Fred Hoyle Chandra Wickramasinghe, in *Evolution from Space*, 1981, p. 135).

(3) **10 God created the Universe:**

- (a) Doesn’t violate *Law of Causality*: Gen. 1:1 Who caused God?
 - (i) *Law of Causality* is only applicable to material effects; God is an immaterial being:
Jn. 4:24: “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 - (ii) *Law of Causality* is only applicable to effects that had a beginning; God does not have a beginning:
Psa. 90:2: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”
 - (iii) In fact, the Bible states the absolute validity of the *Law of Causality* and identifies God as the Chief Builder—the Uncaused Cause:
Heb. 3:4: “For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”
****Psa. 33:6, 9:** “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”
- (b) ****** Doesn’t violate *First Law of Thermodynamics*: God is an entity Who exists apart from time, space and matter. Hence, He can intervene and create time, space and matter and the laws that govern them.
****Heb. 11:3:** “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”
****Rom. 1:20:** “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”
- (c) ****** Doesn’t violate *Second Law of Thermodynamics (Law of Entropy)*: In fact, scripture confirms this law.
****Heb. 1:10-12:** “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”

F. **II** Doesn't the very existence of God violate all three laws? No!

- (1) ****** God is not a material entity; He is a spiritual entity (Jn. 4:24).
- (2) ****** He exists independent of time, space and matter.
- (3) ****** He originated time, space and matter and the laws governing them!

****Psa. 90:2:** *"Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."*

****Psa. 33:6-9:** *"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
He lays up the deep in storehouses.
8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
9 For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast."*

- (4) ****** God is the Chief Builder, the Great uncaused Cause:

Heb. 3:4: *"For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God."*

III. CONCLUSION:

I. Invitation