

Colossians 1:15-17 (part 2) sermon notes (5/10/26)

(NLT) Colossians 1:15-17 - Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
¹⁶ for through him God created everything

in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else,

and he holds all creation together.

Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God

“cosmological” comes from the Greek word cosmos, which means “world” or “universe.”

- **3 Possibilities of how stuff go here:**

- (1) Everything is ETERNAL
- (2) NOTHING created something
- (3) SOMETHING created something

- COSMOLOGICAL argument – because the universe had a BEGINNING, it must have had a CAUSE.

○ Cosmological Argument using logic:

§ (1) Everything that had a beginning had a cause (Law of Causality)

§ (2) The universe had a beginning (SURGE)

§ (3) Therefore the universe had a cause (God)

- Law of CAUSALITY - everything that had a BEGINNING had a CAUSE.

- The UNIVERSE had a BEGINNING
(S.U.R.G.E.)

○ S SECOND Law of Thermodynamics – the universe is running OUT of usable ENERGY.

§ Law of ENTROPY - things in nature goes from ORDER to DISORDER.

§ 1st Law of Thermodynamics – the TOTAL amount of energy is CONSTANT (energy cannot be CREATED or DESTROYED).

○ U UNIVERSE is EXPANDING
from a SINGLE POINT (time, space, and matter all started from a single point).

Legendary astronomer Edwin Hubble looked through his telescope more than a decade later that scientists finally confirmed that the universe is expanding and that it's expanding from a single point. (Astronomer Vesto Melvin Slipher was hot on the trail of this expanding universe as early as 1913, but it was Hubble who put all the pieces together, in the late 20s.) This expanding universe is the second line of scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning.

○ R RADIATION from the Big Bang.

The third line of scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning was discovered by accident in 1965. That's when Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson detected strange radiation on their antenna at Bell Labs in Holmdel, New Jersey. No matter where they turned their antenna, this mysterious radiation remained. They initially thought it might be the result of bird droppings deposited on the antenna by nesting Jersey Shore pigeons, so they had the birds and the droppings removed. But when they got back inside, they found that the radiation was still there, and it was still coming from all directions. What Penzias and Wilson had detected turned out to be one of the most incredible discoveries of the last century—one that would win them Nobel Prizes. These two Bell Lab scientists had discovered the afterglow from the Big Bang fireball explosion! Technically known as the cosmic background radiation, this afterglow is actually light and heat from the initial explosion. This light is no longer visible because its

wavelength has been stretched by the expanding universe to wavelengths slightly shorter than those produced by a microwave oven. But the heat can still be detected.

○ G GREAT _____ G GALAXY _____ Seeds -
____ BEGINNING _____ of new _____ GALAXIES _____.

In 1989 the search for these ripples was intensified when NASA launched the \$200 million satellite aptly called COBE for Cosmic Background Explorer. Carrying extremely sensitive instruments, COBE was able to see whether or not these ripples actually existed in the background radiation and how precise they were. When the project leader, astronomer George Smoot, announced COBE's findings in 1992, his shocking characterization was quoted in newspapers all over the world. He said, "If you're religious, it's like looking at God." University of Chicago astrophysicist Michael Turner was no less enthusiastic, claiming, "The significance of this [discovery] cannot be overstated. They have found the Holy Grail of Cosmology." Cambridge astronomer Stephen Hawking also agreed, calling the findings "the most important discovery of the century, if not of all time." What did COBE find to merit such momentous descriptions? COBE not only found the ripples, but scientists were amazed at their precision. The ripples show that the explosion and expansion of the universe was precisely tweaked to cause just enough matter to congregate to allow galaxy formation, but not enough to cause the universe to collapse back on itself. Any slight variation one way or the other, and none of us would be here to tell about it. In fact, the ripples are so exact (down to one part in one hundred thousand) that Smoot called them the "machining marks from the creation of the universe" and the "fingerprints of the maker."

(these pictures can be seen at COBE's website, <http://Lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov>). These "seeds" are the largest structures ever detected, with the biggest extending across one-third of the known universe. That's 10 billion light years or 60 billion trillion (60 followed by 21 zeros) miles.

○ E EINSTEIN'S _____ Theory of General Relativity -
____ TIME _____, _____ SPACE _____, and _____ MATTER _____
had a _____ BEGINNING _____ and they are
_____ INTERDEPENDENT _____ (you can't have one without
the other).

- KALAM COSMOLOGICAL argument – the universe had a beginning, because TIME CANNOT be INFINITE.

o Cosmological Argument using logic:

§ (1) Everything that had a beginning had a cause (Law of Causality)

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§ (3) Therefore the universe had a cause (God)

- Since time, space, and matter all have a beginning, it must have been CREATED/CAUSED by an UNCAUSED CREATOR that is ETERNAL, IMMATERIAL, and ALL-POWERFUL

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1–3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you

Matthew 10:29–31

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Robert Jastrow, in addition to serving as the director of Mount Wilson, Jastrow is the founder of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies. Obviously his credentials as a scientist are impeccable.

“Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy.”