

PROCLAIMING THE REALITY OF GOD

Scientific & Human Evidence of God's Existence

Steven R. Hemler, President



Challenges to Belief in God

- “There are few scientists, less than 10%, who believe in God.”
 - *Sir Harold Kroto, Nobel Prize in Chemistry*
- “Before we understand science, it is natural to believe that God created the universe. But now science offers a more convincing explanation.”
 - *Stephen Hawking, World-Famous Physicist*
- “Faith is belief in the absence of evidence. Believing when there is **no compelling evidence** is a mistake.”
 - *Carl Sagan, World-Renowned Astronomer*
- *Video: Challenges to belief in college*

Pew U.S. Religion Surveys

- 43% of adults who were raised Catholic no longer call themselves Catholic.
- Nearly half of young adults are not affiliated with a church or organized religion.
- Over 3/4 of “nones” raised in a religious faith.
 - Half don’t believe anymore.
 - Many mention science as reason for disbelief.
- Only 40% of teens believe in God “with absolute certainty.”
- Need to be prepared for challenges.

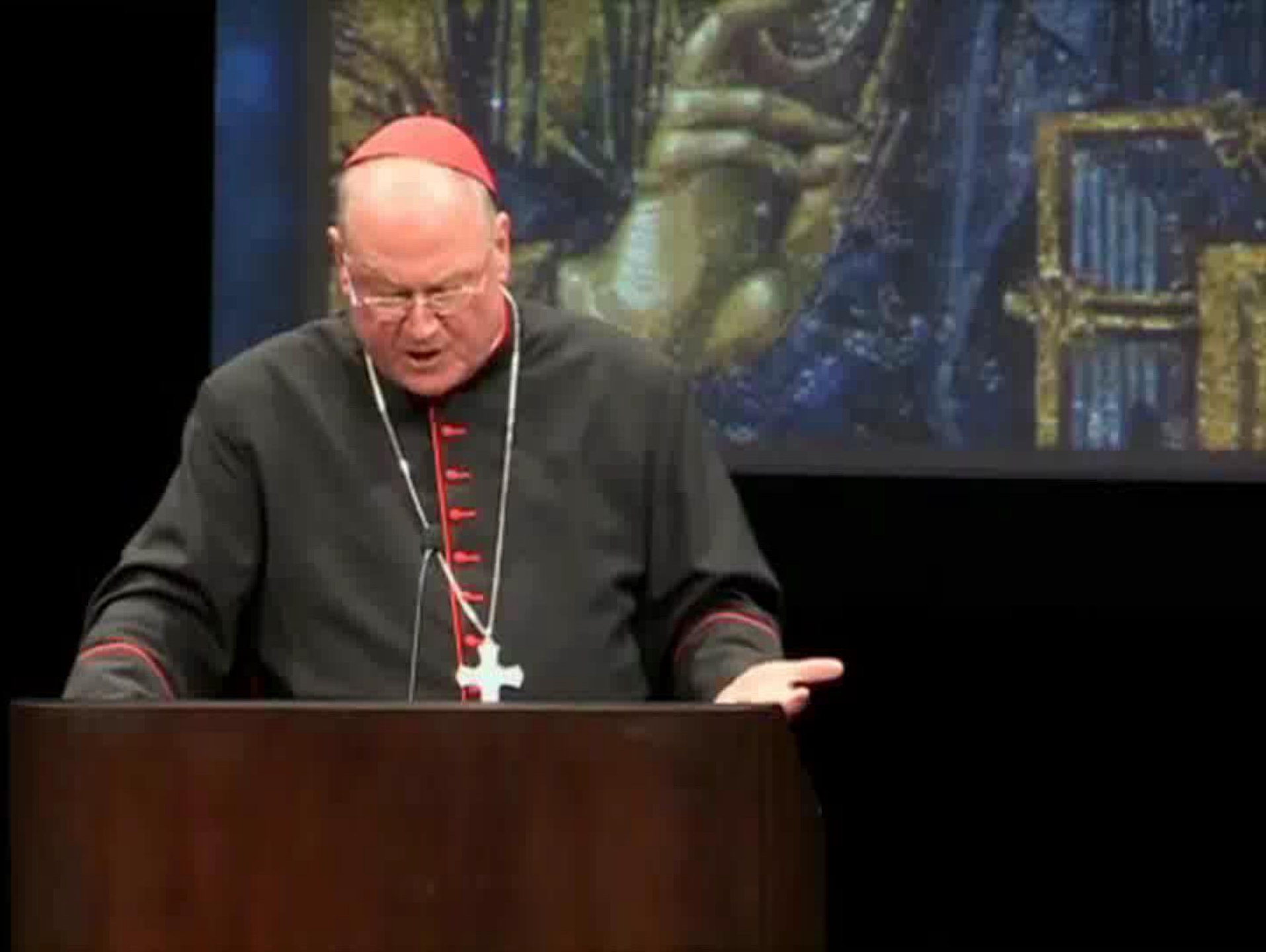
Facing the Challenges

- Need to equip Christians:
 - (1) Help those searching for answers to “big questions” (e.g., Does God exist?)
 - (2) Help meet St. Peter’s challenge:
“**Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15)
- **Strengthen** faith and help us **explain and share** our faith (apologetics).
- *Video: Short “commercial break”*

Apologetics

- Learn new “language” of apologetics
 - Better explain and share our faith
 - Best survive challenges if one’s faith is built on a solid and objective foundation
- *Video: Cardinal Timothy Dolan on importance of apologetics today*
 - *Archbishop of New York*
 - *When President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)*





Apologetics



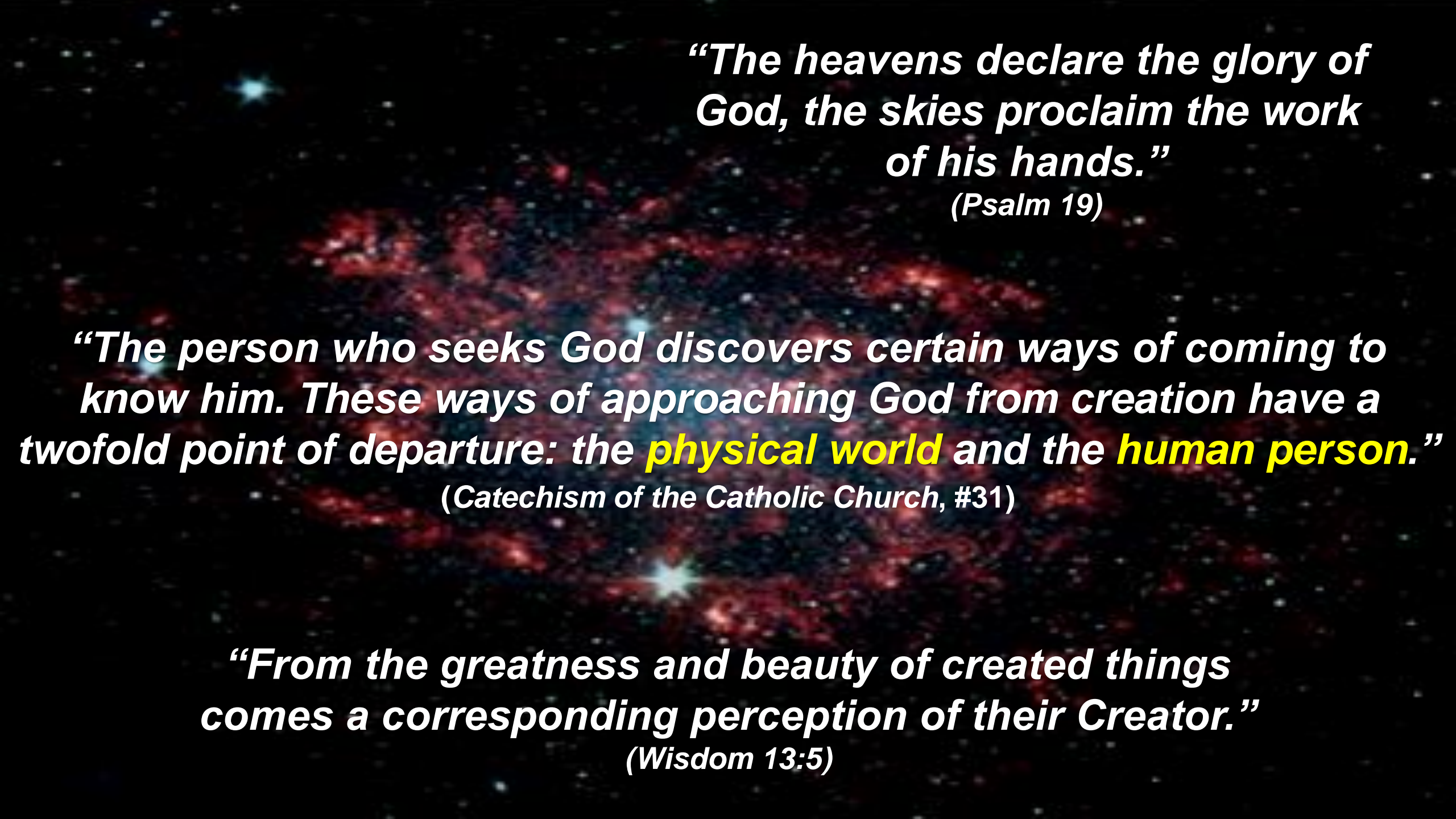
“Innumerable surveys and studies over the past ten years have confirmed that young people frequently cite intellectual reasons when asked what has prompted them to leave the Church or lose confidence in it. Chief among these are the convictions that religion is opposed to science or that it cannot stand up to rational scrutiny.”

“What is vitally needed today is a renewed apologetics. A new apologetics should look deep and long into the question of the relationship between religion and science.”

Bishop Robert Barron

Does God Exist?

(Part 1 - Scientific Evidence)



***“The heavens declare the glory of
God, the skies proclaim the work
of his hands.”
(Psalm 19)***

***“The person who seeks God discovers certain ways of coming to
know him. These ways of approaching God from creation have a
twofold point of departure: the **physical world** and the **human person**.”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #31)***

***“From the greatness and beauty of created things
comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.”
(Wisdom 13:5)***

“The Rest of the Story”

- **Scientific evidence that God exists:**
 1. **Big Bang**
 2. **Laws of Nature**
 3. **Fine Tuning**
- ***Short Video Break***



Alien Song



The big



1 thousand million years

15 thousand million years

300 thousand years

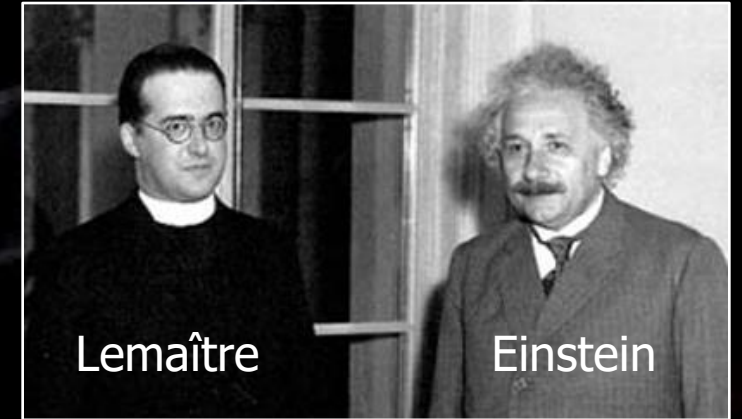
3 minutes

10^{-32} seconds

10^{-32} seconds

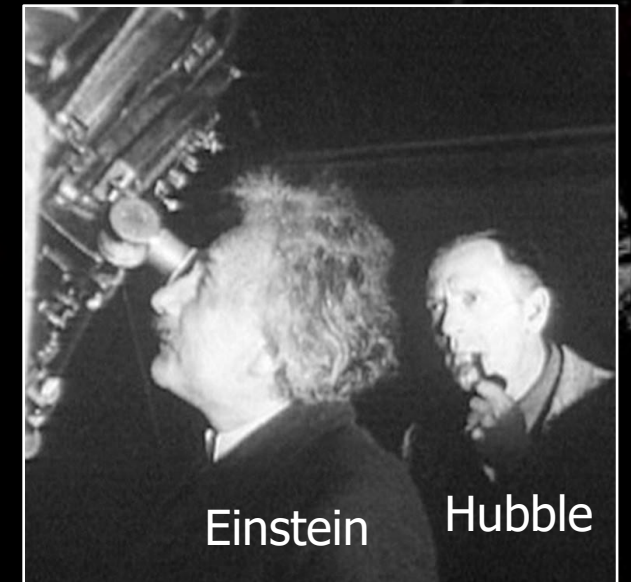
10^{11} degrees

- When the universe came into existence
 - Space, time, matter, energy
- Proposed by Fr. Georges Lemaître (1927)
 - Confirmed by Edwin Hubble (1929), etc.
 - Finite universe - not infinite, static, eternal
- Big Bang: universe had a beginning
 - Nothing comes from nothing
 - Evidence of transcendent Creator outside space and time who “ignited” Big Bang
- *Video: Big Bang evidence that God exists*



Lemaître

Einstein



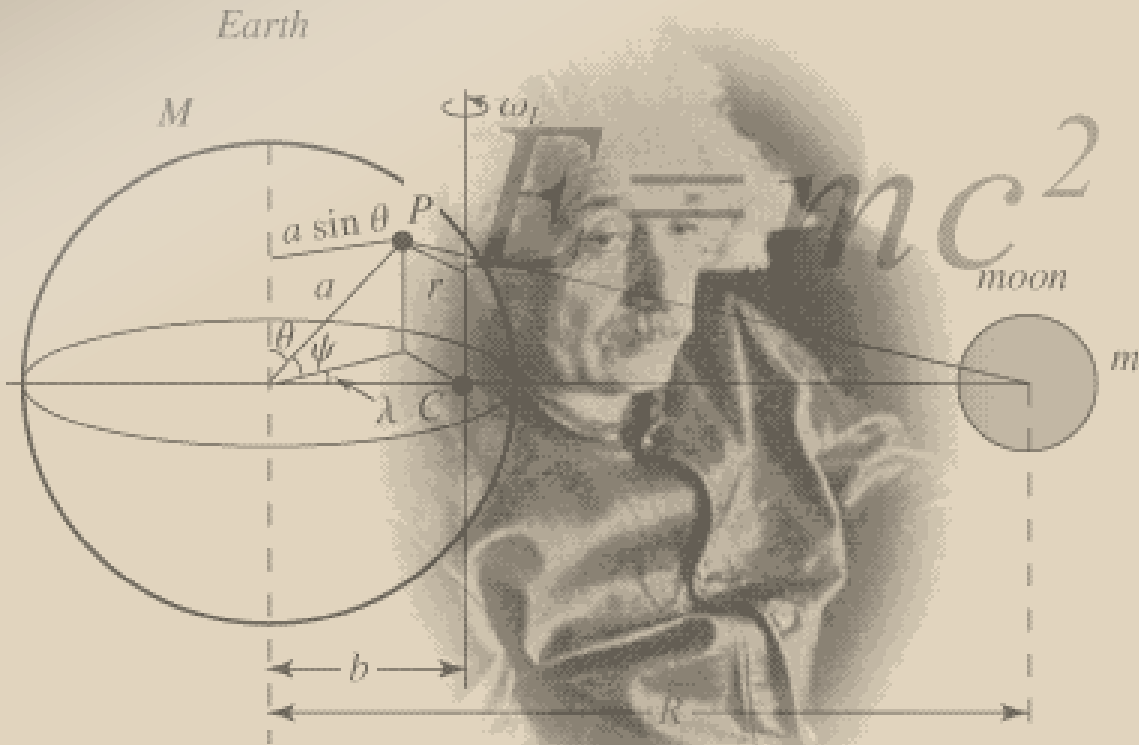
Einstein

Hubble

The Big Bang

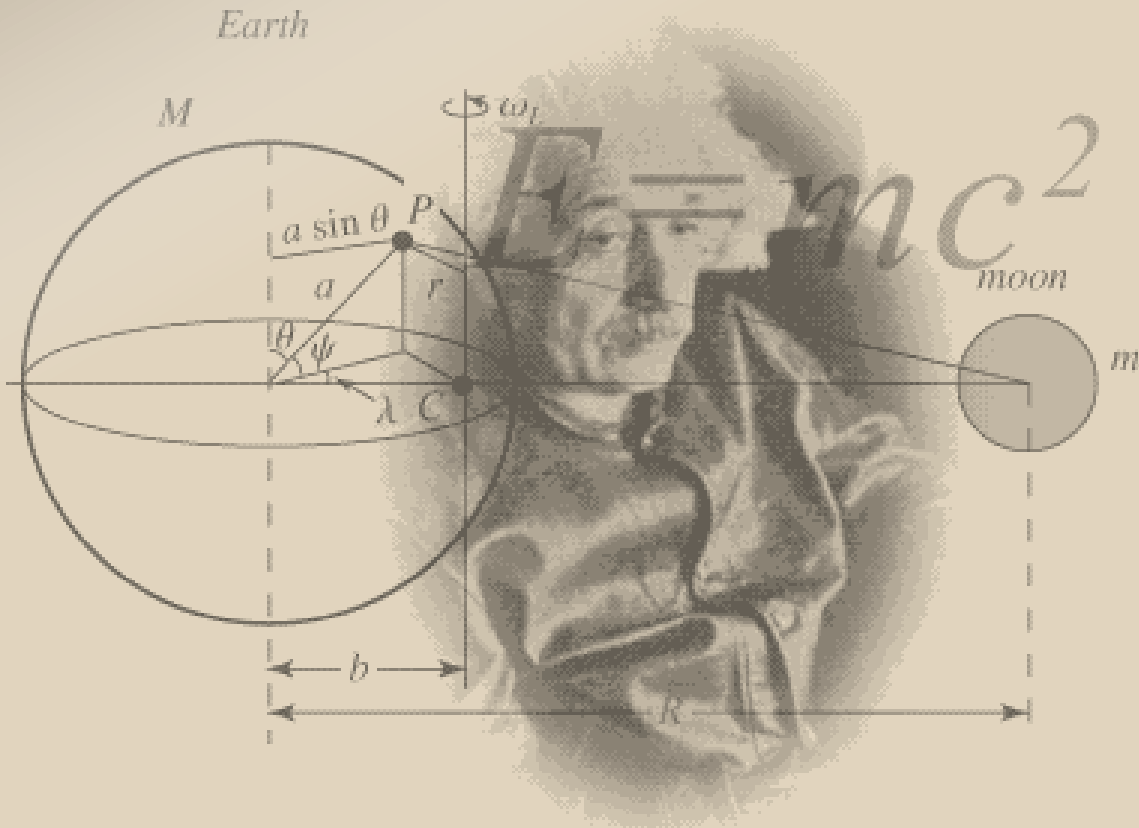
- Big Bang = “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3)
- The Kalam Cosmological Argument:
 - (1) Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence
 - (2) The universe began to exist
 - (3) Therefore, the universe has a cause of its existence.


Laws of Nature



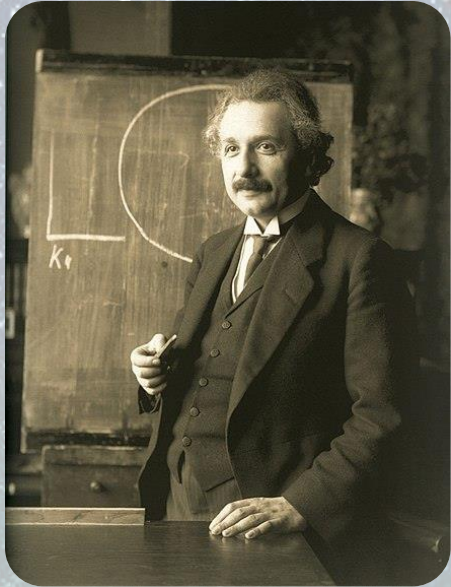
- After violent beginning at Big Bang
 - Expect random, chaotic, unpredictable
 - Firecrackers: Mess or order & harmony?
- Universe is surprisingly well-ordered and predictable (seasons, days, etc.)
 - Governed by laws of physics
 - $E = m c^2$
 - $F = m a$
 - $F = G M m / d^2$
- Elegant and simple mathematical expressions of the laws of nature
 - Explain order, harmony, regularity

Laws of Nature



- Did Einstein, Newton, etc., **create** these laws of nature?
 - Or, did they merely figure out mathematical expression for a pre-existing law of nature?
 - Since Einstein, Newton, etc., did **not** create these laws, where did they come from?
- Why is there a mathematical foundation to the universe and where come from?
 - Why understandable by human intelligence?
- Where do laws of nature come from?
- *Video: Evidence from Physics (Laws)* 

Laws of Nature



- Intelligible since created by Intelligence
 - Mathematical laws of nature take greatest efforts of finest human minds to unlock
 - Must have come from a **Mind** far greater
- Let's look closer at constants in laws:
 - $E = m \underline{c}^2$ $c = ?$
 - $F = \underline{G} M m / d^2$ $G = 6.67\underline{3} \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 / \text{kg}^2$
 - How did “big G” get that value and would it make a difference if it had another value?
 - 20 constants are all set, like dials on a wall, to precisely what is needed for life to exist.

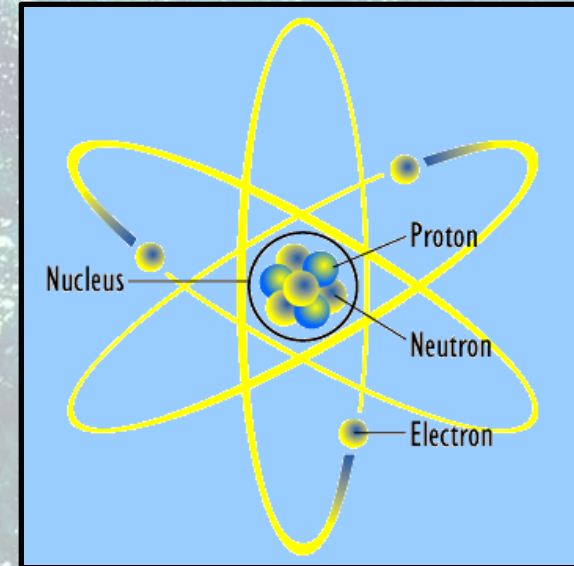


- *Video: Evidence from Fine Tuning*



Fine Tuning

- Constants in laws of nature are all set to precisely what is needed for life to exist
- Examples of “fine tuning”?
 - Cosmological Constant (expansion rate of universe):
 - One quintillionth faster: no galaxies, stars, planets
 - One quintillionth slower: “Big Crunch”
 - Strong Nuclear Force:
 - Weaker = only hydrogen exists
 - Stronger = no hydrogen exists
- Fine tuning is evidence of a Creator who “set all the dials” just right for us to be here



Fine Tuning



“A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question.”

- Cambridge University astrophysicist and mathematician Fred Hoyle

Part One Summary

- **Scientific evidence that God exists:**
 1. **Big Bang**
 2. **Laws of Nature**
 3. **Fine Tuning**

A Key Question

If God created such a wondrous and perfect universe, why is human society so flawed?

This question leads to more evidence of God's existence

- From within ourselves

Does God Exist?

(Part 2 – Human Evidence)

Human Evidence

- Humans have an enhanced consciousness.
- Self-awareness and reasoning ability.
 - **Not** necessary for survival.
 - Humans destined for more than survival.
- Humans seek **full** knowledge and truth.
 - Only human beings seek to understand scientific principles that govern universe.
 - We're aware there is more to know.
- *Video: Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.*

Consciousness

- Let's unpack this video.
- Do we have **perfect** knowledge and **perfect** love in our world?
 - Obviously not - not today, not ever.
- So, how do we even know what perfect truth and perfect love are like?
 - We have an innate awareness of and desire for perfect knowledge and perfect love within our conscious selves.

Consciousness

- Why seek what doesn't exist here?
 - No survival benefit, points to more.
 - Seek something that is beyond our world.
- How does our conscious desire for **perfect** knowledge and **perfect** love point to God's existence?
- It makes no sense for us to seek that which is unattainable.
 - We only seek that which is attainable.
 - If not here, then in the hereafter.

Consciousness

- God is source of our conscious desire for perfect truth and perfect love.
 - What we seek is God.
 - Who is the Perfect Truth and Perfect Love.
- “O God, you are my God—it is you I seek! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts.” (Psalm 63:2)
- *Video: Bishop Robert Barron on the “Argument from Desire”*

Consciousness

- We desire **perfect** truth (knowledge), **perfect** love, **perfect** justice (goodness).
 - C.S. Lewis: “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food... **If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.**”

Consciousness

- Furthermore, humans have a **free will** that comes with consciousness.
 - Free will is freedom to choose our actions.
 - We have ability to think things through and decide what to do and how to do it.
- Since humans have a free will, we should be able to do whatever we want whenever we want to do it. Right?
- *Video: “Commercial Break”*



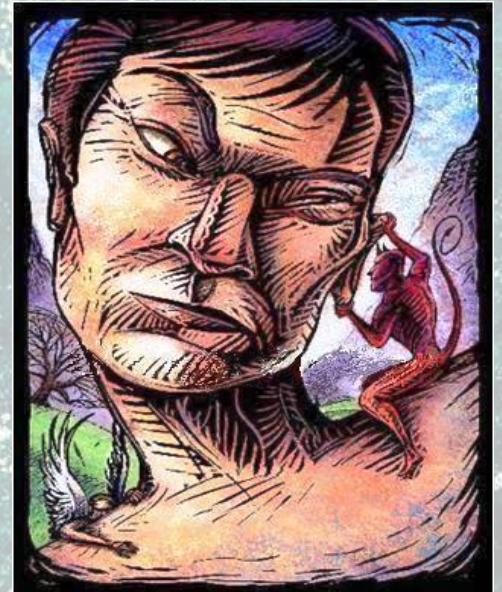


Questions

1. Why is it “evil” for this car to do what it did in this ad?
2. But, can an inanimate object be evil?
3. Or, has this car displayed a human action that we consider wrong?
4. How do we know which human actions are right or wrong?

Conscience

- Even though we have the freedom to choose, we don't feel like we can do whatever we please.
- Conscience tries to guide our actions.
 - Do right and avoid wrong.
 - Has influenced laws and traditions of human societies throughout history.
- Conscience **not** necessary for survival.
 - Animals survive without knowing right from wrong.

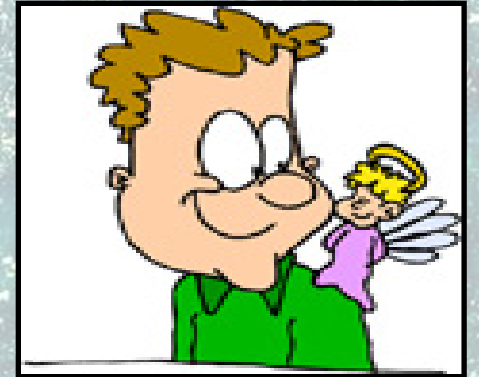


Conscience

- Why do humans intuitively know right from wrong?
 - We are to use our free will to do what is right and avoid what is wrong.
- Even though guided by conscience, we are free to do otherwise and often do.
- Choice of wrong actions throughout history has resulted in flawed human societies we see today.
 - Cumulative effect of “Original Sin”

Conscience

- Why do humans have a conscience and where did it come from?
 - Especially since it's not totally effective at getting us to do right.
- C. S. Lewis:
 - Well-known British author, Oxford Professor, and former atheist.
- *Video: Famous explanation of how our conscience ("Moral Law") points to God's existence*



Conscience

- Since “Moral Law” exists, must be a Moral Law-Giver (God).
 - “Voice of God” in our soul.
- Points to a Creator who is: “intensely interested in right conduct—in fair play, unselfishness, courage, good faith, honesty, and truthfulness.” (C.S. Lewis)
- God not only created the universe.
 - Takes an interest in each human being.
 - Cares about our personal moral choices.



Summary of the Evidence

- “The 3 Cs”:
 - (1) **C**osmos (Big Bang, laws, fine tuning)
 - (2) **C**onsciousness (seek perfect love/truth)
 - (3) **C**onscience (“Moral Law”)
- *Video: Summary of evidence of God’s existence*



Summary of the Evidence

- “The 3 Cs”:
 - (1) **C**osmos (Big Bang, laws, fine tuning)
 - (2) **C**onsciousness (seek perfect love/truth)
 - (3) **C**onscience (“Moral Law”)
- Is this evidence absolute **proof** of God’s existence?
 - Why is God “hidden” and not directly present to us?



Dr. Norman Geisler

“God has provided each of us with the opportunity to make an eternal choice to either accept him or reject him. And in order to ensure that our choice is totally free, he puts us in an environment that is filled with evidence of his existence, but without his direct presence.”

“In other words, ***God has provided enough evidence in life to convince anyone willing to believe, yet has also left some ambiguity so as to not compel the unwilling.*** In this way, God gives us the opportunity to either love him or reject him without violating our freedom. For ***love, by definition, must be freely given. It cannot be coerced.***”

Leap of Faith



- God leaves room for unbelief because it's the only way to leave room for true love.
- It's our choice whether or not we will believe in God and seek to live our lives in accordance with His Will.
- God wants us to ***voluntarily*** choose to know, love, and serve Him.



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THE REALITY OF GOD

The Layman's Guide to Scientific Evidence for the Creator

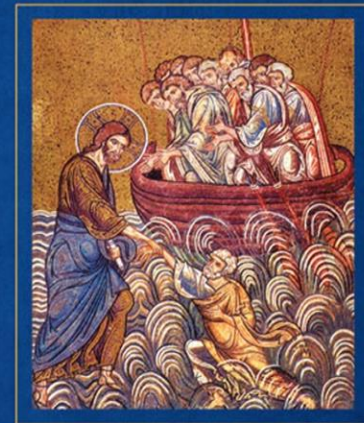
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Steven R. Hemler, President

