

GOD AND SCIENCE

Where Does the Evidence Lead?

Steven R. Hemler, President

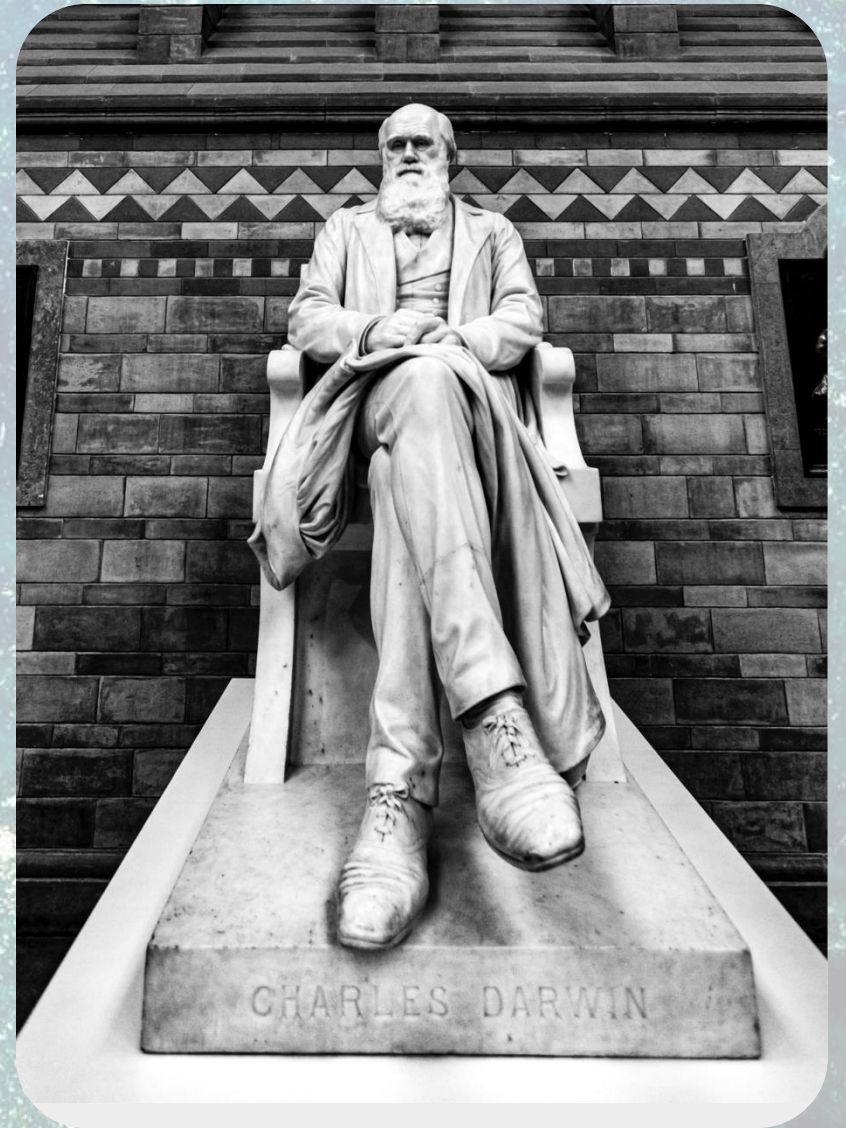


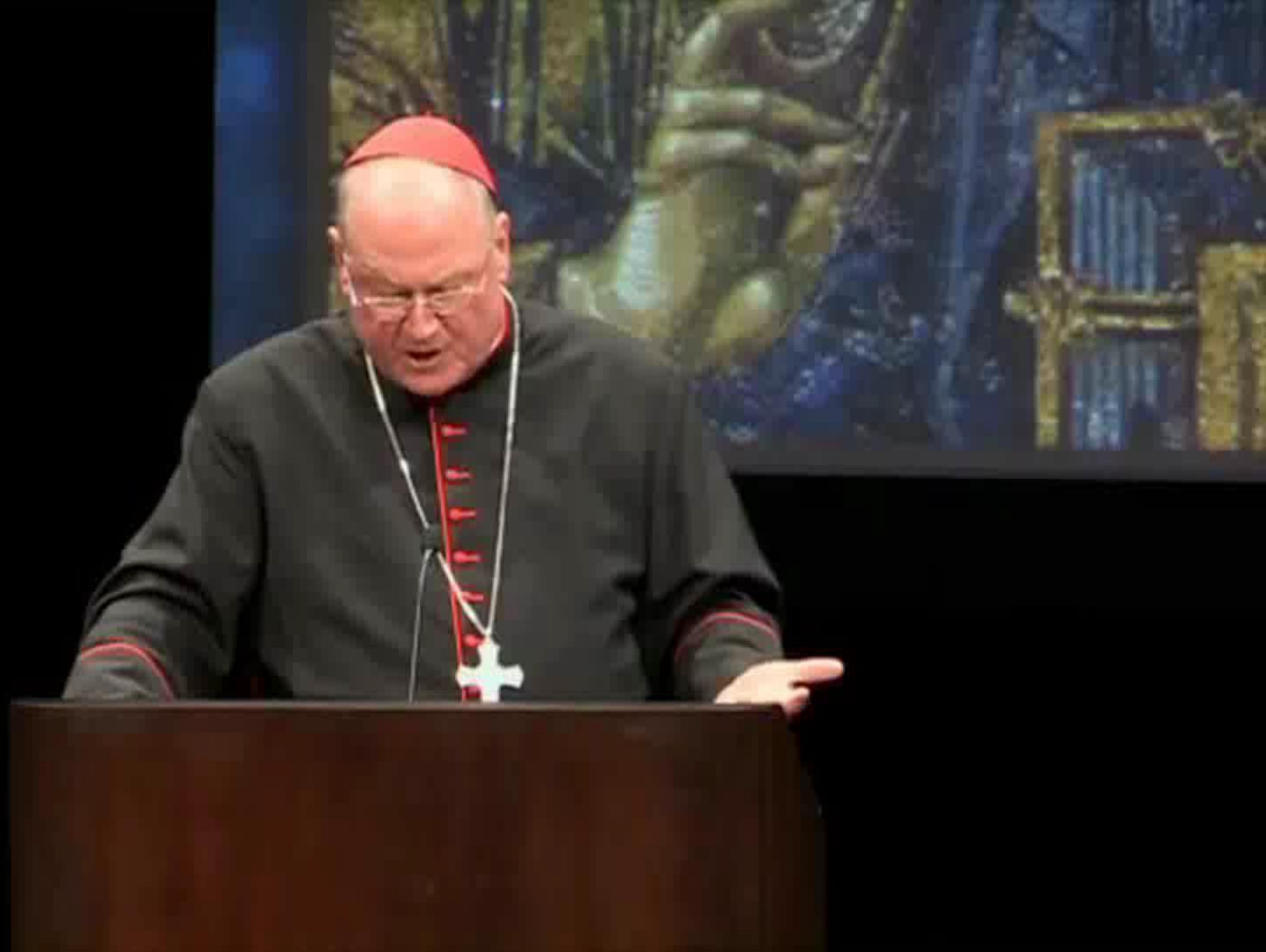
Challenges to Belief in God

- “There are few top 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*

Facing the Challenges

- Help those searching for answers to “big questions.”
 - Does God exist? Evolution or creation?
 - Best survive challenges if faith built on solid and objective foundation.
- Strengthen faith and help Catholics know WHY we believe (apologetics).
- *Video: Cardinal Timothy Dolan on importance of apologetics today*





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

“The Rest of the Story”

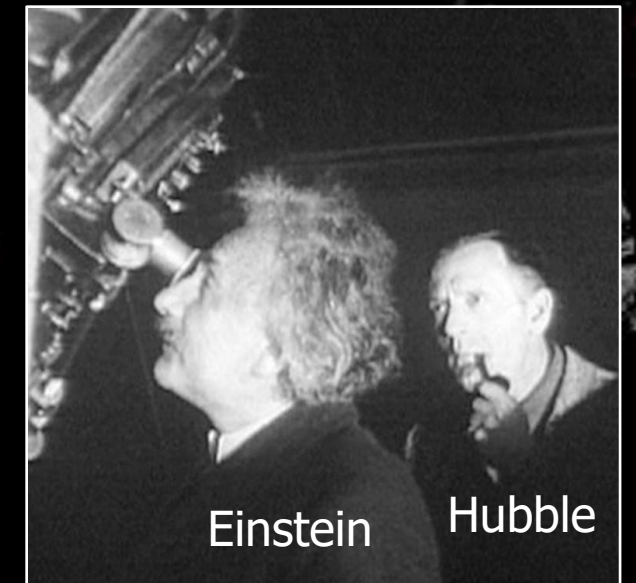
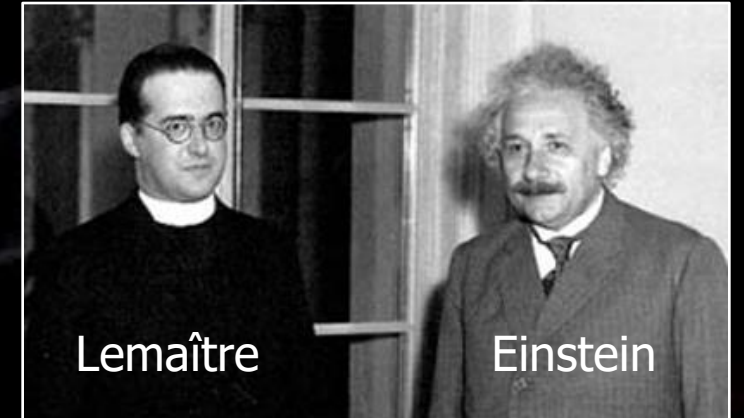
- **Scientific evidence that God exists:**
 1. **Big Bang**
 2. **Laws of Nature**
 3. **Fine Tuning**



The big



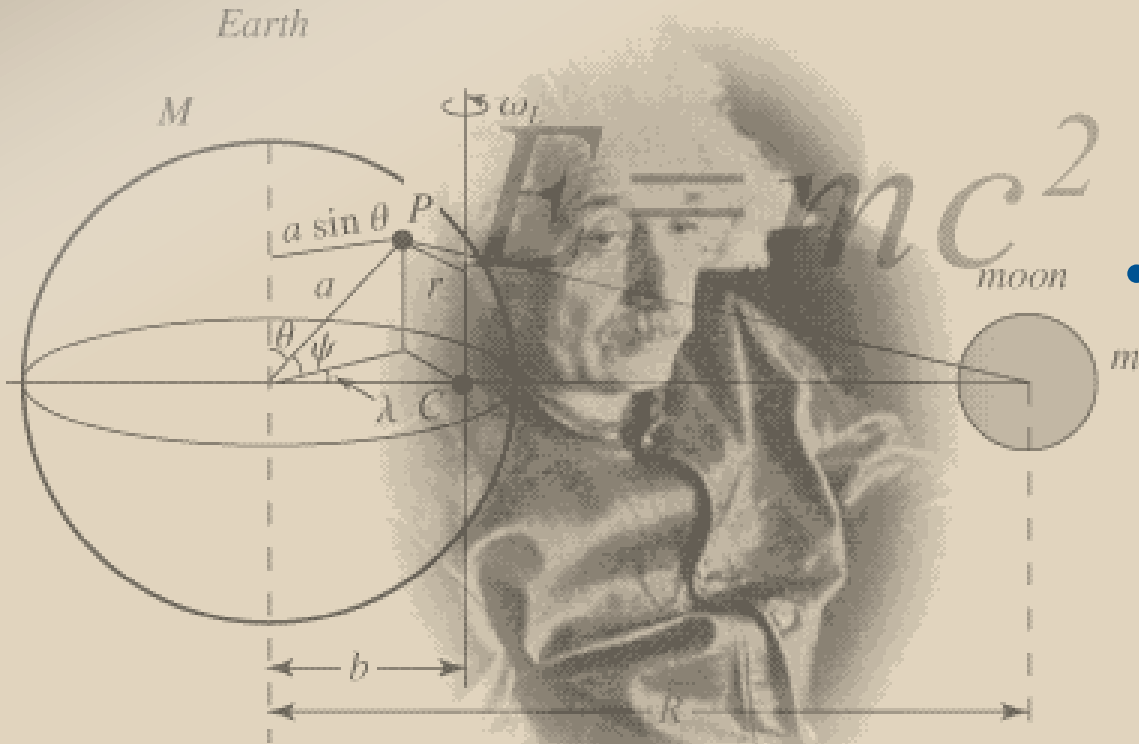
- When the universe came into existence.
 - Space, time, matter, energy
- Proposed by Fr. Georges Lemaître (1927)
 - Confirmed by Edwin Hubble (1929), etc.
 - Finite universe - not infinite, static, eternal.
- Big Bang: universe had a beginning.
 - Nothing comes from nothing.
 - Evidence of transcendent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



The Big Bang

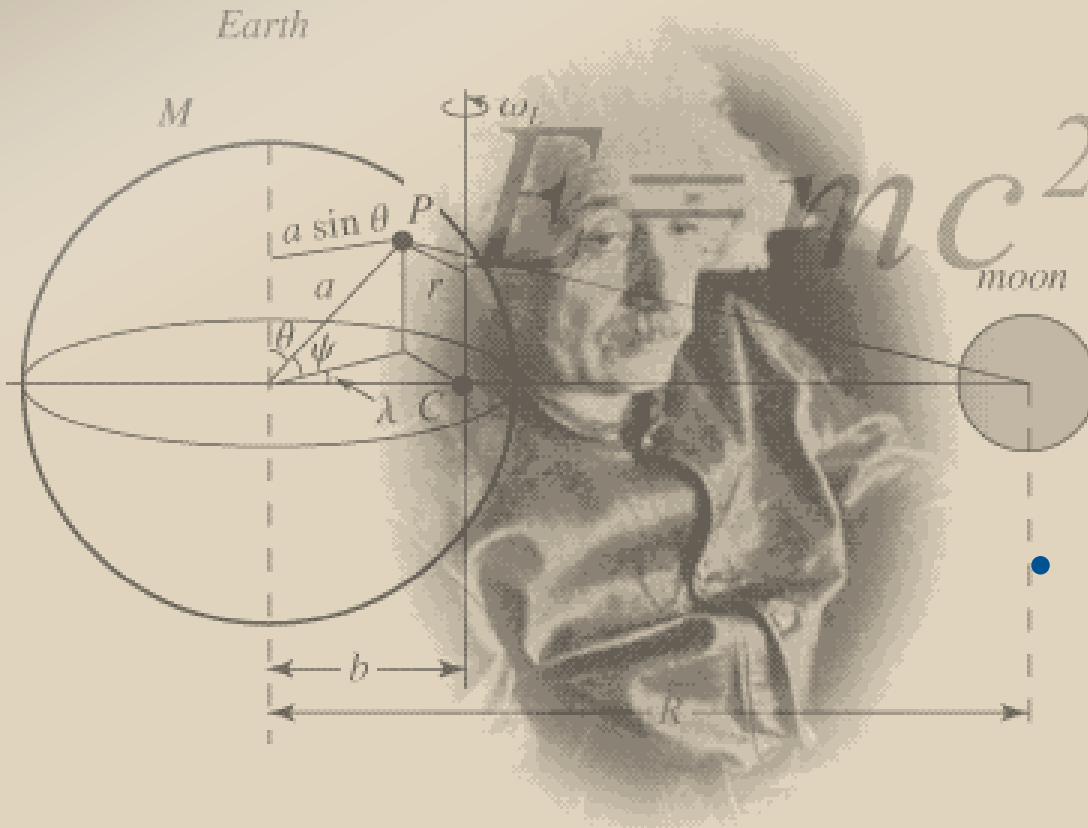
- Big Bang = “Let there be light.” (Gen. 1:3)
- The Kalam Cosmological Argument:
 - (1) Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
 - (2) The universe began to exist.
 - (3) Therefore, the universe has a cause of its existence.


Laws of Nature



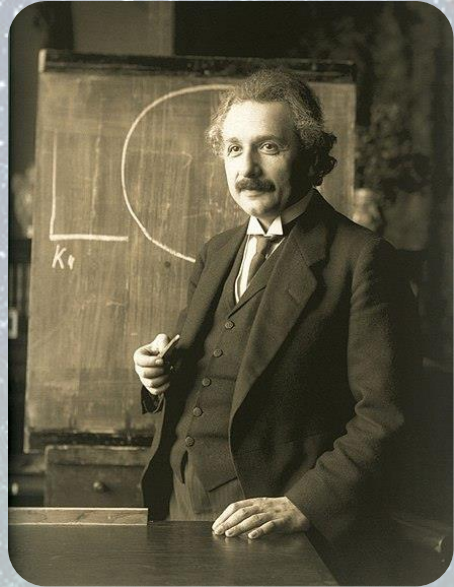
- After violent beginning at Big Bang
 - Expect random, chaotic, unpredictable
 - Firecrackers: Mess or order & harmony?
- Universe is surprisingly well-ordered and predictable (seasons, days, etc.)
 - Governed by laws of physics
 - $E = m c^2$
 - $F = m a$
 - $F = G M m / d^2$
- Elegant and simple mathematical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

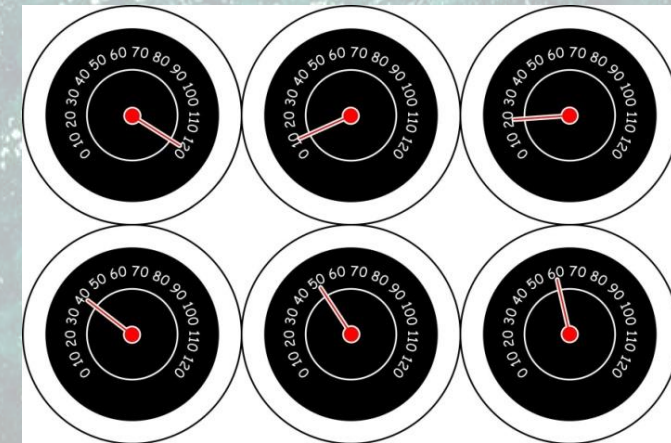
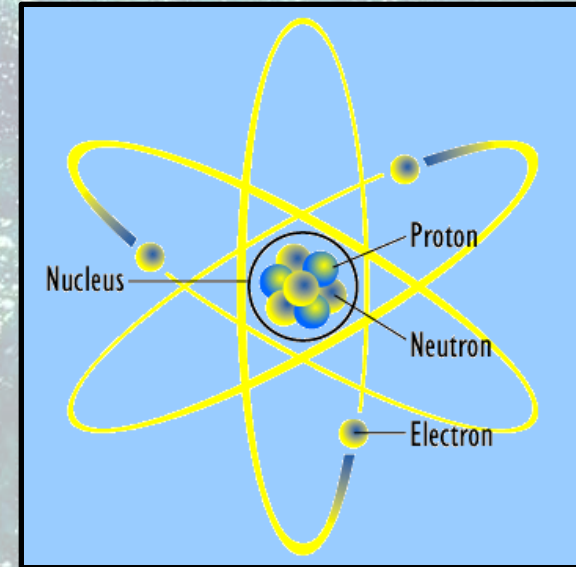


- Intelligible since created by Intelligence.
 - Mathematical laws of nature take greatest efforts of finest human minds to unlock
 - Must have come from a **Mind** far greater.
- Let's look closer at constants in laws:
 - $E = m \underline{c}^2$ $c = ?$
 - $F = \underline{G} M m / d^2$ $G = 6.67\underline{3} \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 / \text{kg}^2$
 - How did “big G” get that value & 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

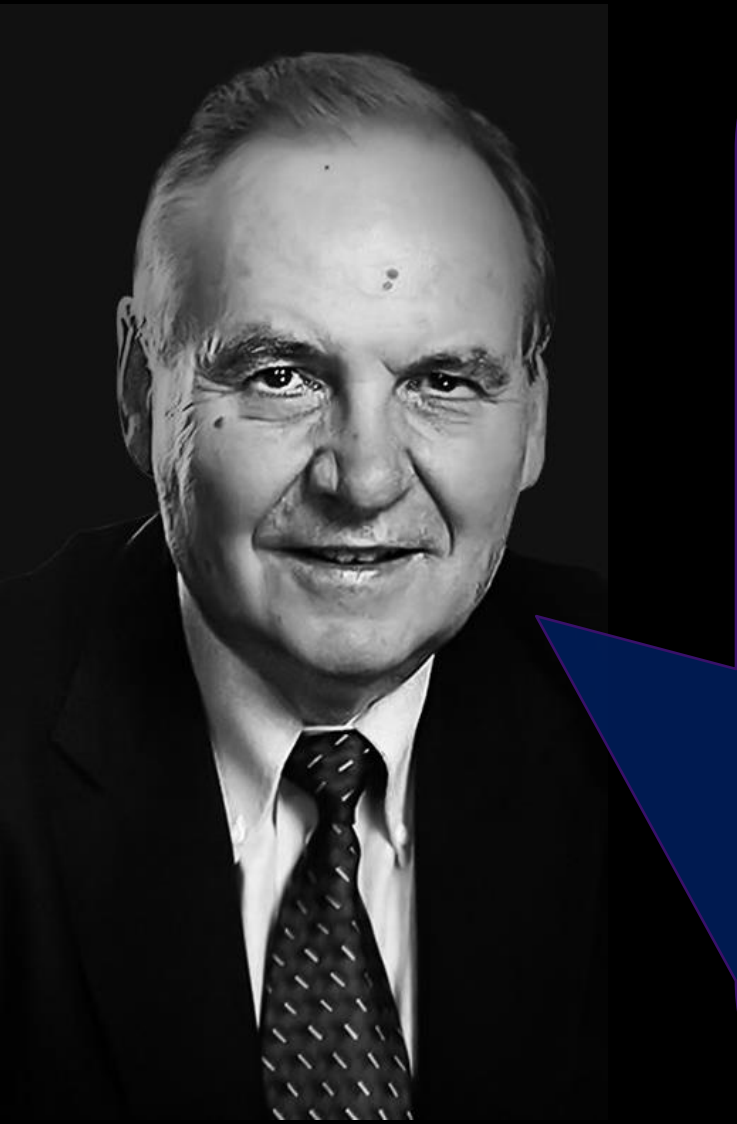


“A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion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

- Cambridge University astrophysicist and mathematician Fred Hoyle

Summary

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

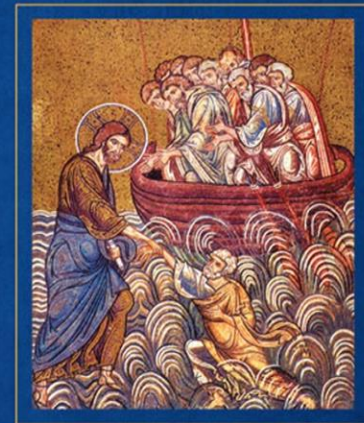
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Questions?

Comments?

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