

²⁰ O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. 1 Timothy 6:20-21a (ESV)

The age of skepticism was launched by Darwin's Origin of the Species. Of course, there were atheists before the book was published. There always have been, for the psalmist wrote one thousand years before Christ that *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"* Psalm 14:1a However, the acceptance of Darwin's theory that life is an accident of time and natural causes made the idea of a godless universe seem intelligent. Our universities that were founded to teach the truth of Scripture and raise up educated pastors began hiring administrators with this new philosophy. Scholars began to look at Scripture with what became known as higher criticism. That meant that they no longer accepted that the Bible was true, but instead examined it for flaws and false claims. Church education was replaced by public education, and behind it all was the push of atheists like John Dewey who knew that if you indoctrinated the teachers, the generations that followed would produce atheists. In the realm of psychology, the theory of psychological problems being caused by repression of baser instincts encouraged self-actualization. They believed the obvious cause of this repression to be the teachings of religion, mainly Christianity. This resulted in the same teaching as found in the Satanic Bible, **"Do what thou wilt is the whole of the law."**

Nevertheless, despite this massive effort that continues to this day, the church survived, and a remnant proclaimed the truth of Scripture. What atheists did not count on is the power of the Word, the conscience God put within us, and a God given hunger in the heart of man to know Him.

The humanist effort brought on an animosity toward those "ignorant people of faith." The Bible was attacked and those who believed in it were increasingly ridiculed as ignorant folks who reject science. They would say we had a blind faith that disputed what was obviously true as revealed by science. But in the last fifty or sixty years, what was once called undisputable truth came under attack by the very science they worship as the final arbitrator of truth. Even as churches were on the decline and atheism on the rise, scientific discoveries are turning scientists into believers. It is becoming increasingly difficult to defend a godless universe. When we see the recent discoveries in the macro and micro realms, we can now say it takes more blind faith to be an atheist than it does to believe.

I think it makes perfect sense that as the indoctrination from the world becomes increasingly overwhelming that God has been revealing greater evidence of the wonder of His creation. It is His desire that all come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4ⁱ). So it stands to reason that as the lies become more prevalent that God would reveal more evidence for those who are seeking the truth.

Eric Metaxas has recently written Is Atheism Dead?, a collection of recent discoveries that are cause to have faith in Scripture. I will present just a few of them. The point I am making is that true science will never contradict God's Word. Salvation will always be by faith (Ephesians 2:8,9ⁱⁱ). But it is now becoming clear that it takes great faith to remain an atheist. Or perhaps we could say that atheists are stubbornly denying the discoveries of science so that they might remain in their unbelief. But perhaps worse

than that, they continue to teach in our schools that evolution is science, when they know it is a completely improbable theory. In many cases that is intentional deception. In other cases, it is inexcusable ignorance.

One could say that science is coming full circle. The founders of almost every branch of science were believers in God. A number of them even declared that they were trying to discover the mind of God in creation. Several even credited God with divine inspiration or Providence that aided them in their discoveries. Then science began to try to define the world without God. But now in the fields of astronomy, physics, biology, and archeology, we are moving back to that original concept of seeing God as the grand designer.

Edwin Hubble and his 100-inch telescope on Mount Wilson discovered that our galaxy was just one of many. He saw that what we thought were stars were whole galaxies like our own. Then in 1924 he discovered that the universe was expanding. Would it continue to expand forever or collapse in on itself over time? His protégé was Allen Sandage. He was tasked with finding the answers to the questions Hubble raised. He was carrying on Hubble's work but was now armed with a 200-inch telescope on Mount Palomar.

A Belgian priest, Lemaitre, postulated that if all was expanding outward, it must have all started at one point. Einstein objected saying it sounded more like religion than science. He tried to disprove it, but eventually his own calculations convinced him it was so. It was dubbed the Big Bang. Why didn't his own Jewish faith cause him to consider it was possible? That is just one of many examples of how scientific discoveries are hindered by a bias against the Biblical account.

This was very troubling to scientists. That is because it gave the universe a starting point beyond which no one can investigate. All we can discover is what happened when that even took place and not before. The singularity from which all matter came was a closed and locked door to what was before time began. However, it is not closed to the person of faith who reads the revelation of God in Scripture. *¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* John 1:1-3

What bothered scientists is that it gave the universe an age. Time itself was finite. This was a problem when it came to evolution. When creationists argued that the complexity of life from blue whales to butterflies could not be products of mere chance, the evolutionist would wave the magic wand of time and say anything is possible given enough time. However, we now know time is finite. That is a monkey wrench in the theory, among other problems we will see shortly. It bothered scientists so much that they searched for ways out by postulating other theories. Sir Edmund Hoyle came up with one that was still around when I was in grade school, the steady state theory. But in 1960 the background radiation from the Big Bang was discovered which ended the debate. There was a "in the beginning." The laws of physics had not always existed. There was a point beyond which science could not go.

Back to Allan Sandage – who was open to wherever his discoveries led him. He found that the rate of expansion of the universe was increasing, which was unexplainable. It would not fall back in on itself but expand ever outward with increasing speed (Job 9:8ⁱⁱⁱ).

In 1980 he became a Christian though it wasn't until 1985 that he made a public stand. At a conference of scientists, the closing session was to ask those who believed in God to go to one side of the platform, and those who didn't to go the other side. To everyone's surprise, the renowned and respected Doctor Sandage went to the believing side. Not only did he believe in God, but he believed in the God of the Bible. He explained that the creation event had affected his worldview. He said what many knew but were afraid to affirm. "I am convinced that there is some order in the universe. I think all scientists, at the deepest level, are so startled by what they see in the miraculousness of the inner connection of things in their field... that they at least have wondered why it is this way." It has recently been said that if you want to find an atheist, you have to leave the astronomy department and go to the math department (Psalm 97:6^{iv}). Well, now we touch on the math department's statistical probability.

Christopher Hitchens, one of the most well-known atheists in our time, was asked, "Of all the debates with religious scholars, what was their most troubling argument." His quick response was, "It is the fine-tuned argument. The fine-tuning, that one degree, well one hair (of difference) ...even though it doesn't prove design, doesn't prove a Designer... You have to spend time thinking about it, working on it. It is not a trivial (argument). We all say that." That was quite an admission from the man who often demonized religionists. And with more discoveries, the stronger the argument becomes.

Why aren't we told that if the earth were just slightly larger or slightly smaller life could not exist? Did you know our nearly circular orbit and distance from the sun make life possible? Only a slight variation closer or farther would make our world uninhabitable. We call this the Goldilocks Zone. **It would be one thing if there were five or six of these "just right" conditions, but scientists have discovered hundreds of them!** The odds of this happening are astronomical (pun intended)! The discoveries have been piling up over decades, but we face the anti-god educational system that doesn't want to admit these truths that lead to conclusions they don't like.

Carl Sagan popularized the idea that in all the galaxies there must be a planet our size at the right distance around a sun our size. Thus there must be millions of planets with life. But as the discoveries mount about the exact conditions necessary for life, leaving aside for the moment the complexity of a single cell, the possibility of life out there went from millions to thousands to tens to - what a miracle we exist! Sorry trekies and Star War fans. And yet we spend billions of dollars searching for life out there because they want to believe life just happens. SETI has searched the skies for decades hoping for a radio signal. That is a literal shot in the dark that science is wrong.

If the earth were slightly smaller the magnetic field created by our iron core would not be strong enough to protect the planet from solar winds, so our atmosphere would be stripped away. If it were slightly larger our gravity would hold in elements that would make the air too thick to breathe. The giant planets of Jupiter and Saturn act like gigantic asteroid vacuums, running interference for the earth. Just one of the larger asteroids could extinguish all life on earth. Our moon is surprisingly large compared to our planet size. The Bible calls the moon the faithful witness in the sky (Psalm 89:37^v). If it were slightly smaller or larger life could not exist on the earth. It steadies the wobble of our axis giving us vitally stable climates. It is large enough that its gravity causes our ocean tides, vital to our coastal ecosystem, which are vital to the rest of life on the planet. Earth is unique in

that it has only one moon and its size is huge compared to the other planet to moons ratio in our solar system.

We are also in the Goldilocks Zone in our galaxy too, twenty-six thousand light-years from its center. Farther in and we would receive too much radiation and have a much greater possibility of an asteroid strike. Stars farther out have planets significantly smaller than earth which can't support atmospheres.

Perhaps some of the most finely tuned factors are regarding the universe. The stars' interiors make all the elements we find on earth. English physicist Paul Davies wrote: *"The universe looks suspiciously like a fix. The issue concerns the very laws of nature themselves. For 40 years, physicists and cosmologists have been quietly collecting examples of all too convenient 'coincidences' and special features in the underlying laws of the universe that seem to be necessary in order for life, and hence conscious beings, to exist. Change any one of them and the consequences would be lethal."*

Fred Hoyle writing in the Caltech alumni seemed to be finally coming around to believing. He wrote: *"Would you not say to yourself, 'Some super calculating intellect must have designed the properties of the carbon atom, otherwise the chance of finding such an atom through the blind forces of nature would be utterly minuscule.' Of course you would... A common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. ... the conclusion is beyond question."* I think God would prefer the word "designed" rather than "monkeyed with."

Caltech astrophysicist Hugh Ross writes: *"At certain early epochs in cosmic history, the universe's mass density must have been as finely tuned as one part in ten to the 60th power to allow for the possible existence of physical life at any time or place within the entirety of the universe."* He goes on to say that is so fine-tuned that if right after the universe beginning someone added or took away a dime's mass, the possibility of life would have been destroyed! Steven Weinberg goes further to say that for conditions for life to be possible energy density had to be exact to one in ten to the 120th power.

We could go on to talk about the precision of the force within atoms, the fine-tuned electromagnetic force, or the perfect calibration between these forces. The calibration between gravitational forces and the electromagnetic forces had to be exact down to one in ten to the 40th power. So put these odds together, and realizing that the universe is thought to have approximately one to ten to the 90th power of atoms, and it becomes clear that with these statistical probabilities the only reasonable conclusion one can reach is that the universe was exquisitely designed for life.

I could make this a series of sermons and talk about water and sunlight. Things I never heard of or considered that make life possible. But you'll have to read the book (Is Atheism Dead?).

I must briefly address biology. How did we get here? Was man able to create life in a test tube? Not hardly. Scientists made amino acids in 1952 and said it was possible, but the best minds in science have not been able to produce a living thing, despite the billions of dollars in research since that experiment. Ironically some of them claim life came about without intelligence. What does that say about their intelligence?

Did you know there are 900,000 species of insects, 400,000 species of plants, bee hummingbirds that weigh two grams and Blue Whales that weigh 400,000 pounds!

Darwin suggested it all started with a simple cell, but now, thanks to electron microscopes, we have discovered the world within a cell. Even the “simple” membrane around the cell contains an astonishing universe in itself, outrageously sophisticated, and water-tight until it decides to let something in or out. Cambridge zoologist Thorpe said that even the “most elementary type of cell contains mechanism unimaginably more complex than any yet thought up, let alone constructed by man.”

Physicist Paul Davies calculated the odds of some cosmic soup endlessly breaking up and reforming would lead after a billion years to a virus are one chance in ten to the two millionth power. Sorry, I can’t illustrate that number as a visual. We’d be here all day looking at zeros. That is like flipping a coin and getting heads six million times in a row! Geneticist Michael Denton writes: Each bacterial cell is in effect a veritable micro - miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery... without parallel in the non-living world.

Then there is DNA. It is an instructional language. Does language come from non-intelligence? It consists of four molecules organized into complex instructions for the building of proteins that are not found naturally occurring in nature. I hope I’m not boring you with these statistics and scientific facts. I want us all to see that the odds that you and I are here by some accident of time and nature are so ridiculously improbable as to say it is utterly impossible. But belief it is just an accident is the great faith of atheists of today. Amazing faith! Wouldn’t you say? We must educate people about the lie that we were taught and is being fed to our children and their children in this fallen world.

No wonder the seraphim sing, *“The whole earth is full of His glory”* (Isaiah 6:3^{vi}). Creation is a marvel. Life is incomprehensibly complex. That is why the psalmist said, ¹⁴ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.* Psalm 139:14

Finally, I want to touch briefly on archeology. That age of higher criticism is taking a severe blow from archeology. Many of those writers of that age suggest that many of Bible places and names and events were made up. But archeology has made huge leaps in the last hundred years. We now know the even some of the earliest Bible locations such as Ur of the Chaldees, Abraham’s city, has been located. Names were found that matched those in the Bible. The town of Sodom and the other four cities of the plain of Jordan have been identified along with the ash layer that coincides with the Biblical time frame of the destruction. Historical engraved stones called stele have confirmed the existence of Israel back to 1200 B.C., during the age of the judges, as well as the names of some of Israel’s kings. King Hezekiah’s water tunnel inscription was found in our lifetime. Skeptics said the Hittites never existed. Archeology has discovered it was a bigger empire than Rome.

Some skeptics even claimed that Jesus never existed and yet Josephus and a Roman historian both mention him. Archeologists have found his childhood home in Nazareth, the place of His birth in Bethlehem, the very house in Capernaum where He headquartered His ministry, which was Peter’s home, and the pools of Bethesda and Siloam. The ossuary (bone box) of the High Priest who condemned Jesus was also recently discovered. Numerous details of descriptions both in the Old and New Testaments have been verified. One archeologist stated that no discovery has ever disproved an event or location told of in the Bible.

You might ask about some of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, or Antony Flew? Were they not atheists? Sartre and Camus trusted in Jesus before they died. I wonder why they don't tell us that when we study philosophy? Flew before his death acknowledged the existence of God to the chagrin of his followers. His mistress claimed it was betrayal due to senility.

The God who made the universe and our planet to be inhabitable inspired a record of His works in the earth. It is a reliable and trustworthy record. The heavens were made by the word of His mouth (Psalm 33:6^{vii}; 19:1^{viii}). He spoke through the prophets. But above all else, He came down as one of us to live a sinless life and take our sins and the punishment we deserve upon Himself (1 Peter 2:24^{ix}). He is the amazing Lord of creation and yet He died for you and me. You can have the great faith of today's atheists and discount all the evidence as an incredible statistically impossible accident, or you can have faith to accept all the clues God has placed for us in this age of foolish skepticism. As we read recently in Corinthians: ¹⁹ *For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."* ²⁰ *Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?* 1 Corinthians 1:19-20

Believe the evidence. Believe His Word! Accept the grace given to you. Believe, and let Him be Lord of your life.

Questions:

- 1 What started the most recent humanist movement?
- 2 How did Christianity survive it?
- 3 What did Hubble discover?
- 4 Why didn't scientists like it?
- 5 What convinced Sandage to believe?
- 6 What did Hitchens say was the best argument for design?
- 7 How do we know there is no life "out there"?
- 8 What are some of the Goldilock's factors about the earth?
- 9 What are some of the Goldilock's factors about physics?
- 10 What are some of the archeological evidences of the veracity of Scripture?

ⁱ **1 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)**

⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

ⁱⁱ **Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)**

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Job 9:8 (ESV)**

⁸ who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;

^{iv} **Psalms 97:6 (ESV)**

⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

^v **Psalms 89:37 (ESV)**

³⁷ Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." Selah

^{vi} **Isaiah 6:3 (ESV)**

³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

^{vii} **Psalms 33:6 (ESV)**

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

viii **Psalm 19:1 (ESV)**

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

ix **1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)**

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.