


Roots of Our Faith



Creation

Roots of Our Faith: Creation

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

- The most profound statement ever made!

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

- The most profound statement ever made!
- The ultimate answer to the ultimate question:
 - Life, the universe, and everything!

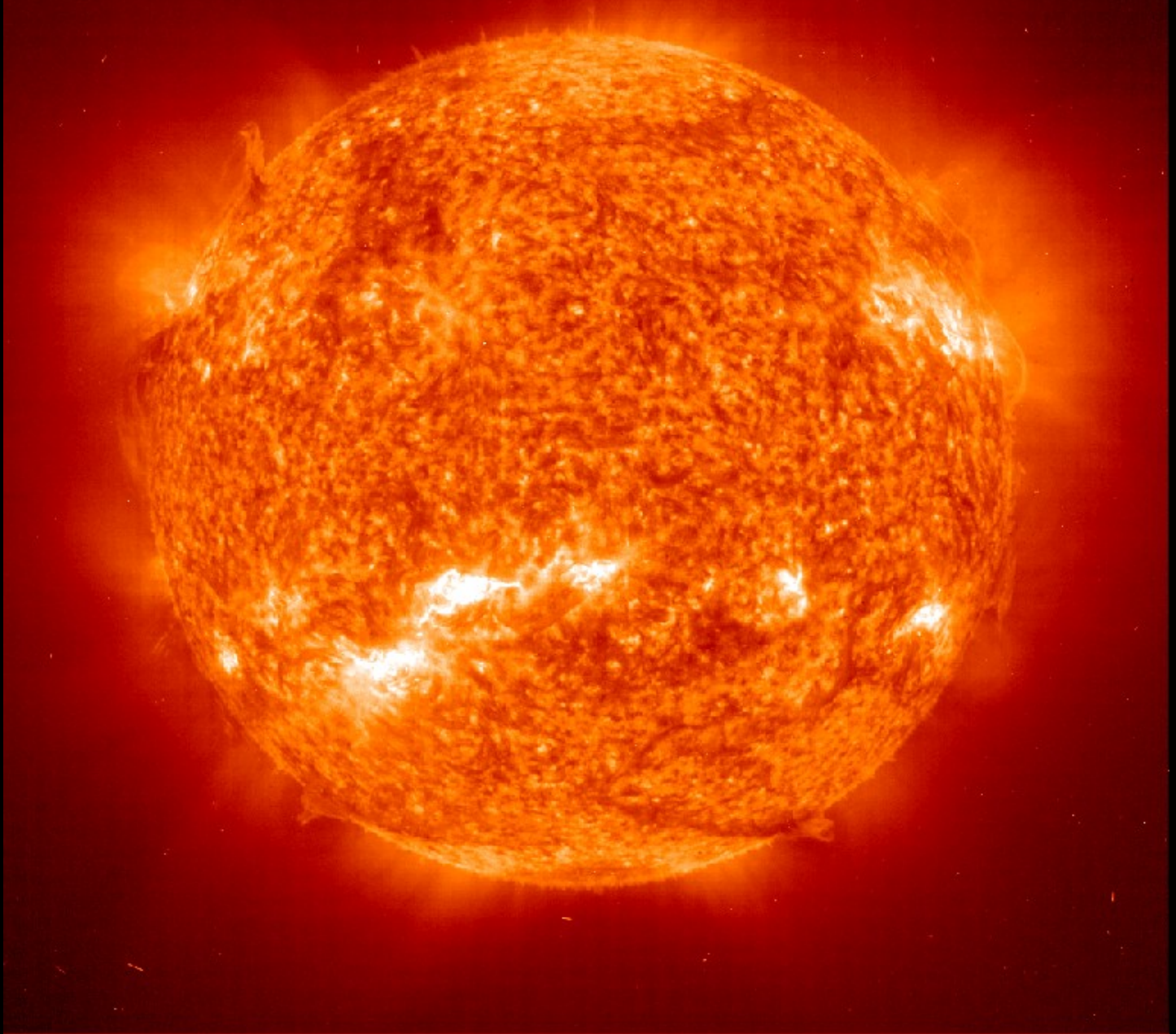
God created an incredible earth! (Yosemite Falls)



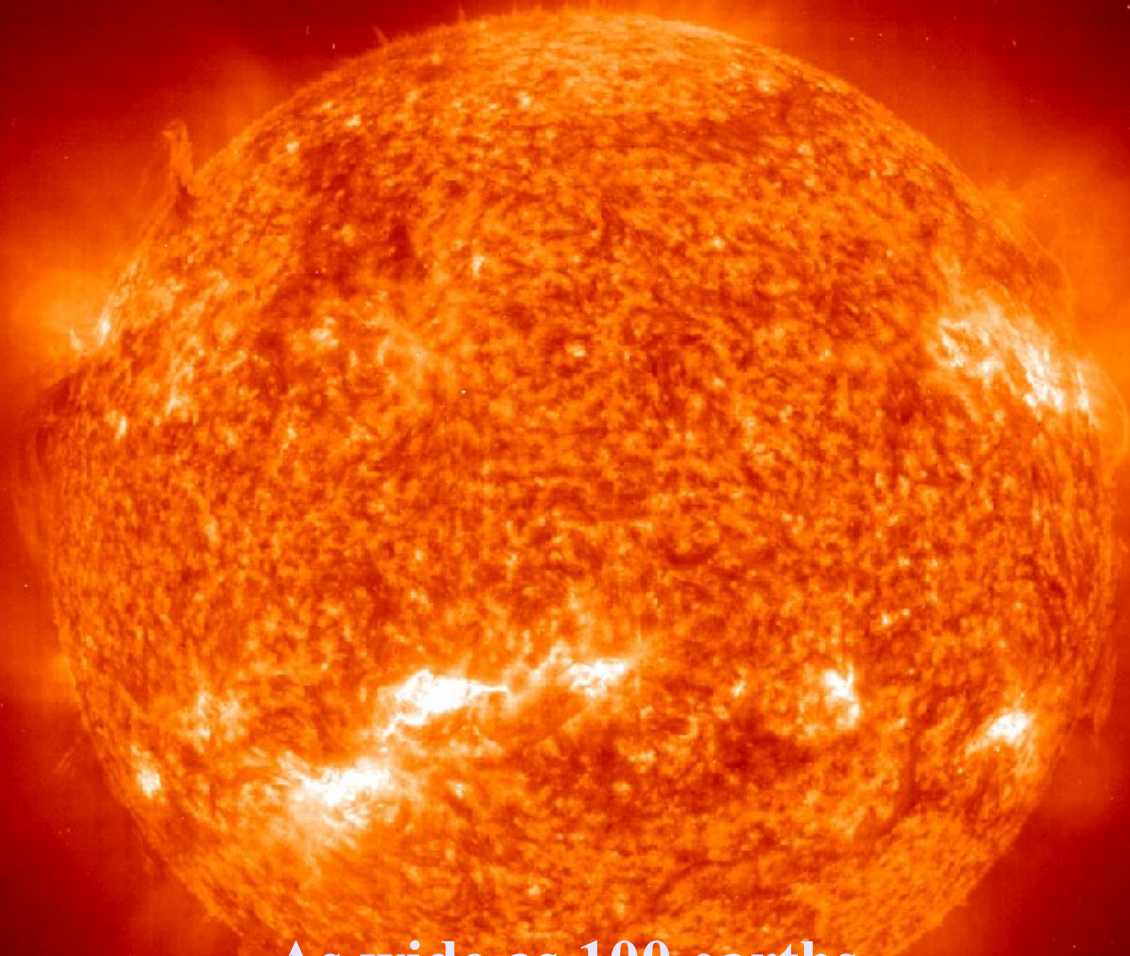
God created an incredible earth! (Apollo view)
24,000 miles around equator



Let there be light! (The Sun)

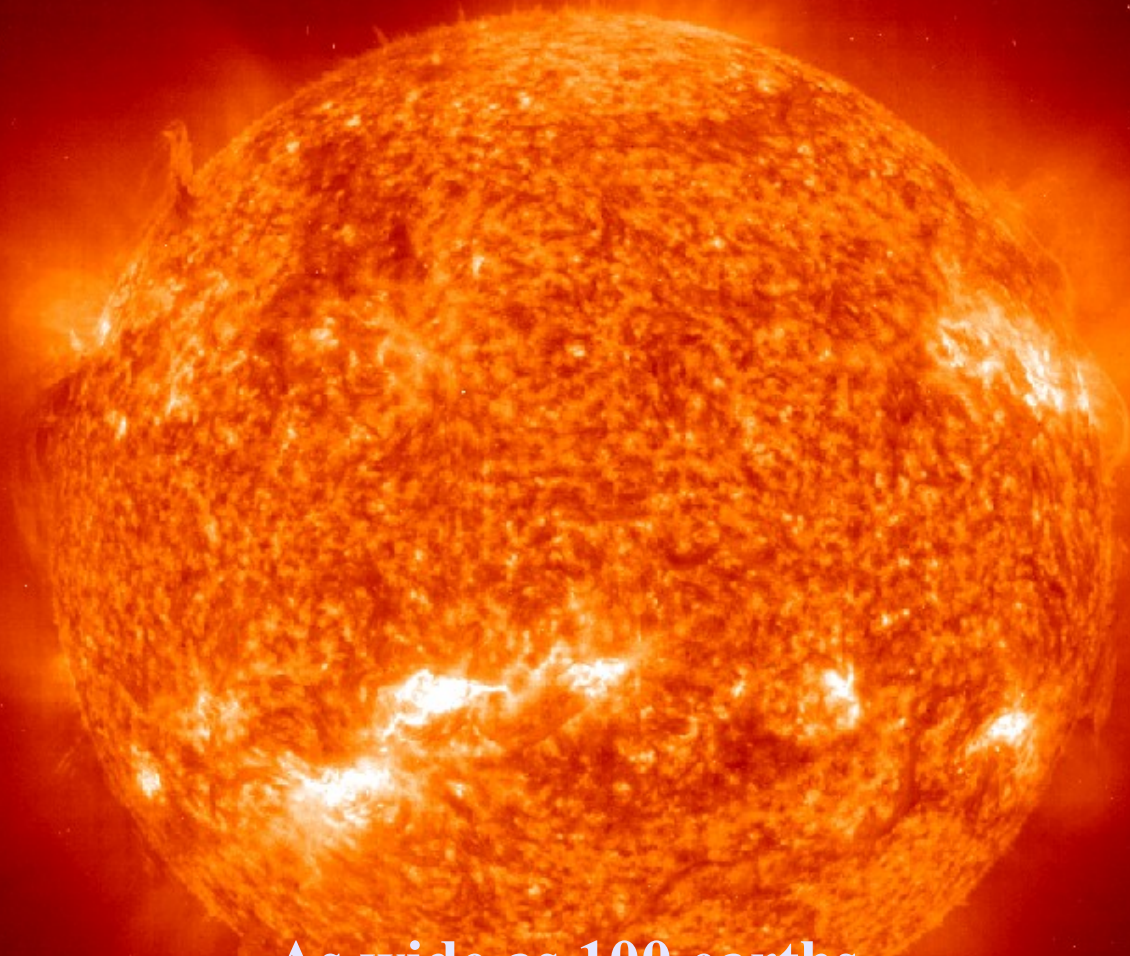


Let there be light! (The Sun)



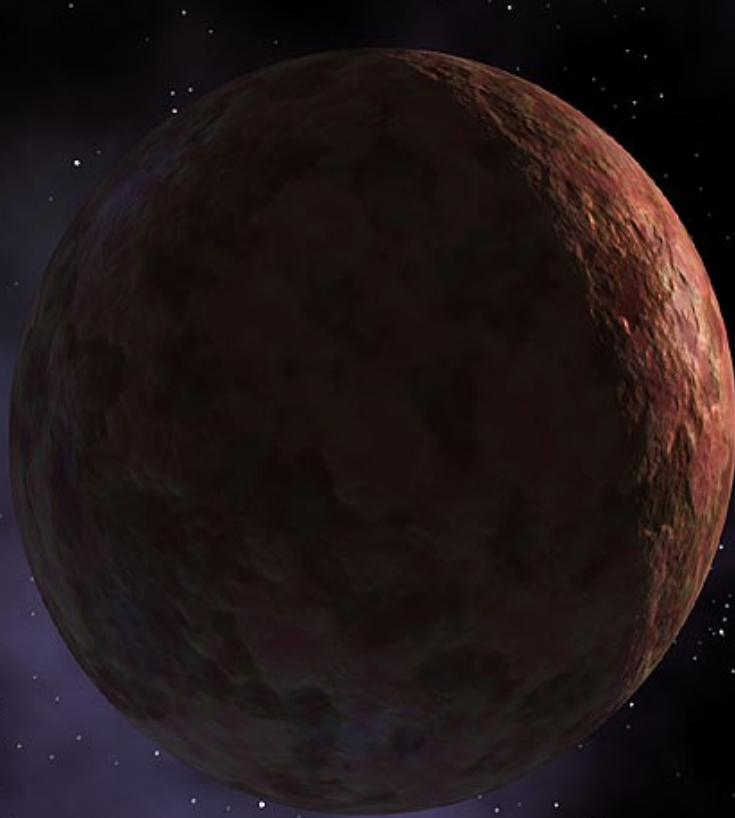
**As wide as 100 earths
1,000,000 earths would fit inside**

Let there be light! (The Sun)



**As wide as 100 earths
1,000,000 earths would fit inside
93 million miles away
Light takes 8.5 minutes to reach earth**

**View of Solar system from Sedna
Currently 3x farther from Sun than Neptune
(artist's conception)**



**Milky Way Galaxy as seen from COBE satellite
an estimated 200 to 400 Billion stars!**

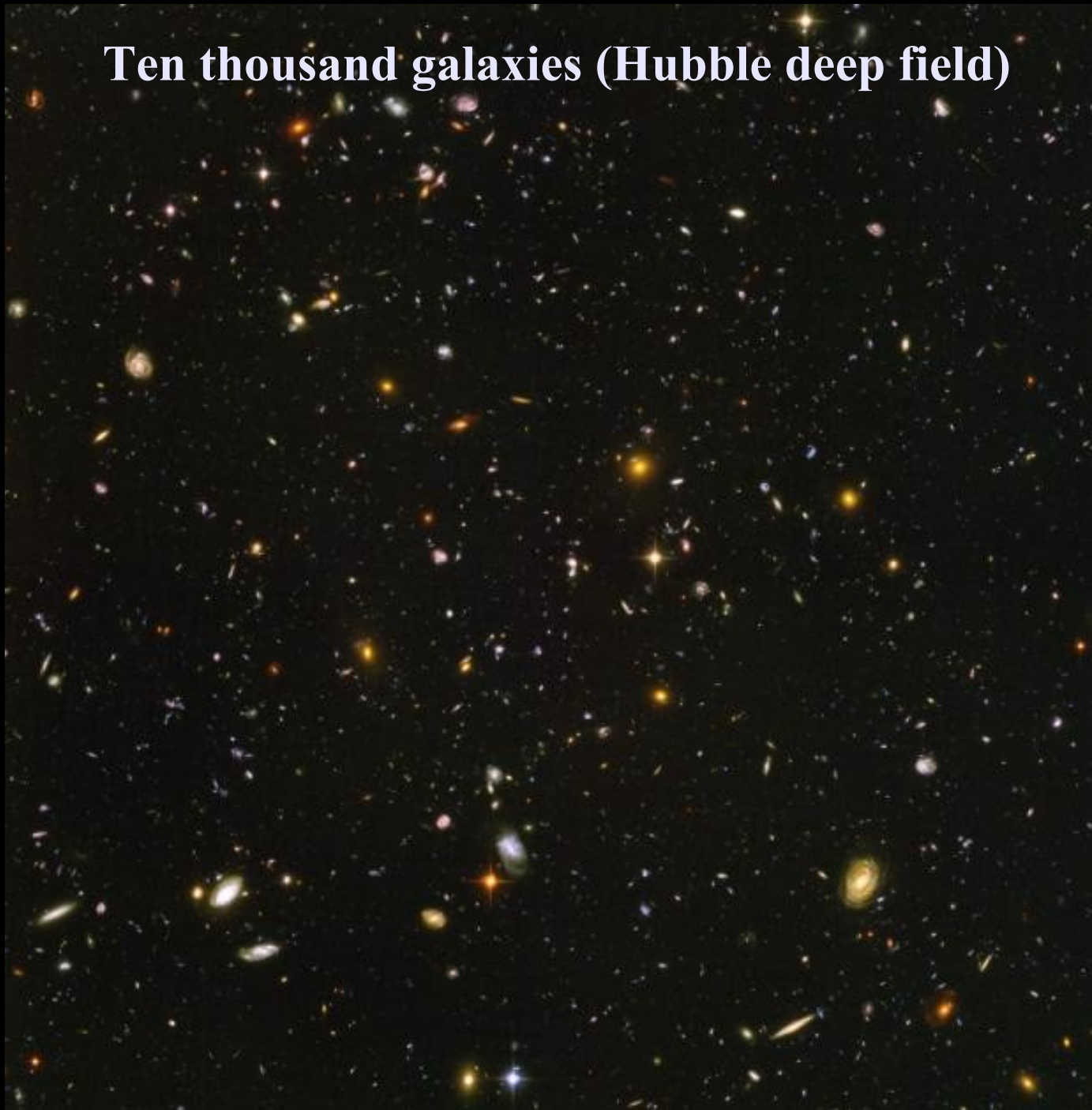


At least 70,000 light years across

Spiral Galaxy NGC 4414 (Milky Way twin)



Ten thousand galaxies (Hubble deep field)



Ten thousand galaxies (Hubble deep field)

(Estimated 100 to 300 billion galaxies in universe)

Ten thousand galaxies (Hubble deep field)

**(Estimated 100 to 300 billion galaxies in universe)
Hundreds of billions of stars in each!**

Farthest galaxies ever seen (13 billion light years away)



Distant Galaxies in the Hubble Ultra Deep Field
Hubble Space Telescope • Advanced Camera for Surveys

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Creation displays the amazing power of God!

Romans 1:20 *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
men are without excuse.*

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Creation displays the amazing power of God!

Psalm 19:1-3 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

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People have always asked these ultimate questions:

- *Where did I come from?*
- *Where did everything else come from?*
- *What does it all mean?*

Questions of life, the universe, and everything!

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Currently dominant scientific explanation: The Big Bang Theory

- Everything began at a single point in space and time
- The “Singularity”

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The Big Bang Theory

- Consequence of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity
- Universe “exploded” on the scene
- Estimated 13.7 billion years ago
- Universe still continues to expand at an accelerating pace

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Evidence for the Big Bang Theory: Background Radiation

- Predicted in 1948
 - based on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity
- Confirmed in 1965 by AT&T scientists (1978 Nobel prize)
- Further confirmed in 1992 by NASA's COBE satellite
- Scientists see as strong proof of Big Bang theory
- A few skeptics remain...

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The Big Bang Theory

- Initially made scientists uncomfortable
 - It means there was a beginning.
 - Something must have caused it.
 - Creation has religious implications!

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Sir Arthur Eddington

- Famous British astrophysicist
- Experimentally confirmed Einstein's general theory of relativity
- Struggled with “In the beginning”

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"Philosophically, the notion of a beginning to the present order is repugnant to me and I should like to find a genuine loophole."

– Sir Arthur Eddington

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"We must allow evolution an infinite amount of time to get started."

– Sir Arthur Eddington

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Big Bang and the Bible

- Six days?
- Or 13.7 billion years?
- Controversial question

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“New earth” view

- Literal Bible timeline: about 6000 years ago
- Creation merely has the *appearance* of being older

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“Old earth” view

- Six phases of creation, not literal 24 hour days
- Universe could be billions of years old

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New earth or old?

- Disputable issue
- Maybe we misunderstand the scripture
- Maybe science misinterprets the evidence
- Scripture and science will agree perfectly when properly understood

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New earth or old?

- *Deu 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*
- *Rom 14:1 Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.*

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Main alternative scientific theory: Steady State

- Universe has always existed.
- No beginning.

Widely rejected today by scientists.

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Scientific problem with accepting Steady State:

Laws of thermodynamics

- 1st law: “You can't get something for nothing”
- 2nd law: “You can't even break even.”
- 3rd law: “You can't get out of the game.”

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1st Law: “You can't get something for nothing”

- Matter cannot be created from nothing
- Matter (hydrogen) is being converted to energy in sun, stars
- If universe was infinitely old, hydrogen would all be gone.

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2nd law: “You can't even break even.”

- The universe is constantly losing usable energy
- It is impossible to replenish the lost usable energy
- If the universe was infinitely old, there would be no remaining usable energy.

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If the universe were infinitely old:

- There would be no more hydrogen
- There would be no more energy

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If the universe were infinitely old:

- There would be no more hydrogen
- There would be no more energy

But, hydrogen and energy have not run out.

- Therefore, the universe is not infinitely old
- It had a beginning!

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So the universe had a beginning.

What caused it to begin?

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The First Cause

- Something not a part of this creation
- Something not contained within this creation (space and time)
- Something not confined by the physical laws of this creation
- God, of course!

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“The Beginning” is a big problem for Hinduism

- Unending cycle of creation
- Reincarnation
- Hinduism doesn't leave room for a beginning

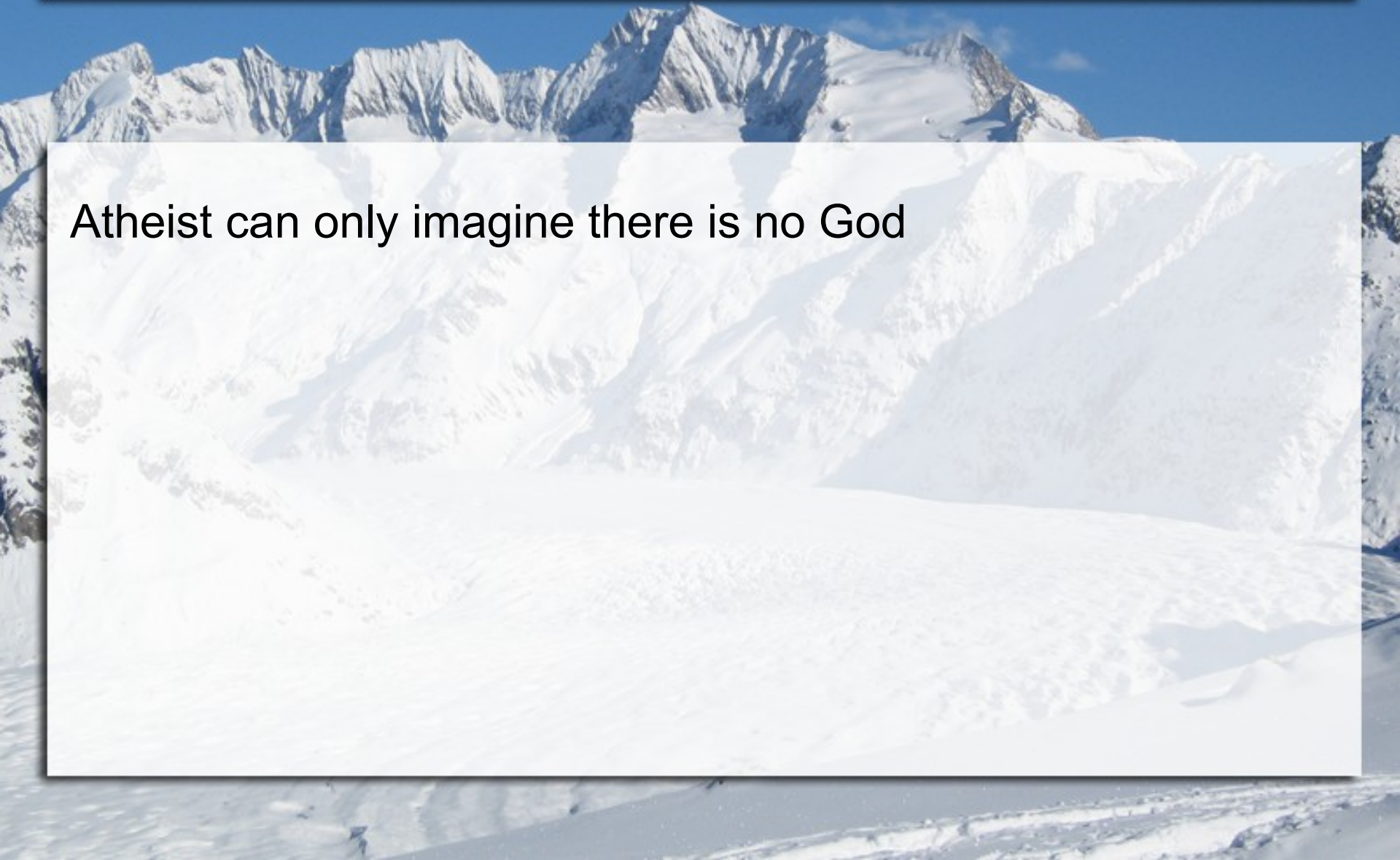
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“The Beginning” is a big problem for atheists

- Beginning implies a First Cause
- Admitting a First Cause essentially admits a Creator
- By definition, atheists have no explanation
- Science is eliminating atheism as a rational position.
 - But there are still atheists!

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Atheist can only imagine there is no God



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Atheist can only imagine there is no God

To prove it:

- Must possess knowledge from outside this creation
- Essentially, must be omniscient
- Must be the thing they seek to prove does not exist!

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An analogy: The story of Flatland

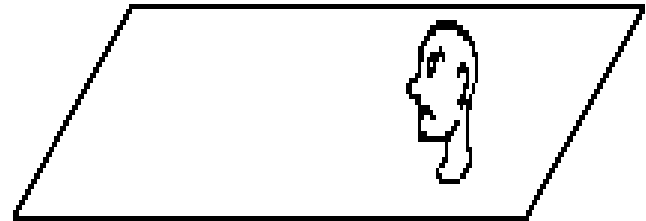
From the story “Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions”

- 1884 philosophical story
- Illustrates our limited perspective relative to God's perspective

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The man in Flatland

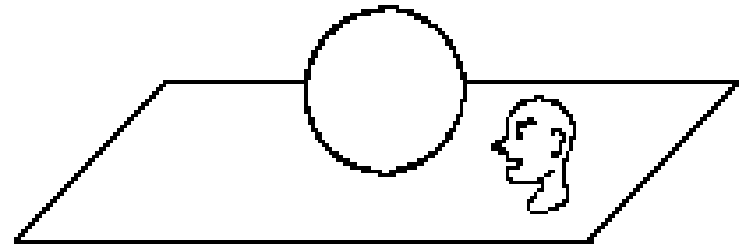
- Lives in a sheet of paper
- Two dimensional world
- Cannot see anything outside the sheet



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A miracle happens in
Flatland!

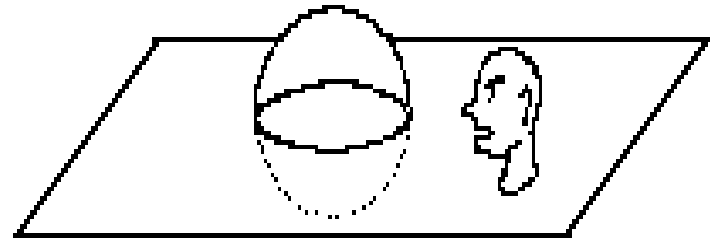
- A sphere approaches his world
- Cannot see until it touches
- Then just sees a single dot



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The sphere passes through
his sheet of paper

- He just sees a growing
circle.
- Circle grows, then shrinks
- Becomes a single dot, and
then disappears.



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The man in Flatland cannot explain what happened

- Something came from nothing, then disappeared again!
- It violated all the known laws of his universe.
- Has no way to visualize a sphere
- Has no idea what exists outside his flat universe

But to a 3-dimensional being it is simple to understand.

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Like the man in Flatland, science cannot explain creation

- No way to observe what exists outside our universe
- No way to describe or to measure what happened
- Not a repeatable experiment!

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“The instant of creation remains unexplained.”

- Professor Alan Guth, cosmologist, MIT

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“The actual point of creation lies outside the scope of presently known laws of physics”

- Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist

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The origin of the universe is unknowable without information provided from outside the universe!

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The origin of the universe is unknowable without information provided from outside the universe!

– That would be the Bible!

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In summary:

- This universe had a beginning
 - Acknowledged by most scientists
- Therefore something caused it to begin
 - A Creator!
- The Bible has told us that for thousands of years!