

May 22, 2005
Trinity Sunday

"The True God Behind the Big Bang"

GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning-- the first day.

Do you know what a cosmologist is? A cosmologist studies the universe or cosmos searching for answers on how our world began. Most cosmologists believe the world was created 15 billion years ago where there was a huge explosion nick-named "The Big Bang." This "Big Bang" theory suggests expanding gases formed the planets and stars we see in our world. It is further alleged that random chance created the perfect alignment of the earth with the sun and other planets with potential to sustain life. Random chance brought the perfect mixes of gases together. Random chance created the first spark of life. Random chance was responsible for the human beings and animals we see in our world today.

When Christians believe in a different origin for our universe. Faith leads them to accept the opening words of the Bible as true. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The explosive energy released when our God created the heavens and the earth suggests something far more spectacular and awesome than anything suggested by the Big Bang theory.

The problem with the cosmologist's view of the world is that it does not explain how the material used for the Big Bang came into existence. The best explanation is "It was always there." This morning we want to see that there was a time when matter did not exist. In fact nothing existed except an eternal God who describes himself to us on the pages of the Bible as one God and three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This morning we want to see more clearly, **The True God Behind the "Big Bang."**

1) This true God reveals himself to us in nature

How do you know there is a God? You can see the evidence for God's existence in the world that he has made. Genesis one says, "In the beginning God created the heaven's and the earth." God was in the beginning. Before anything existed, God was there. In John 1 it says of Jesus, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Our human finite minds cannot comprehend how God could be eternal without space and time as we know it.

This eternal God created the heavens and the earth. He created all the matter in the universe in an instant, faster than you can snap your finger. Genesis describes this created matter as "formless and empty." From the original matter that was formed, God then put together a complex world that simply could not have developed by random chance. Take

the creation of light. "God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light. God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness he called 'night.'"

"God separated the light from the darkness." Plants grow and produce food because of light. The light of the sun warms the earth in just the right amounts. Light enables you to see. In modern times, light in the form of laser beams, can be used to read millions of pieces of information stored on this disk. Information can be passed on optical fiber at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second. Certain stars and galaxies are billions of light years away from our earth, and yet we still see their light that God sent on its way to us when the stars were formed.

In the winter, our family cat likes to see out the first rays of the morning sun, using the light that comes from the sun to warm his black fur. The cat does not know there is a God, but he does know the effects of sun or light on his body. Generations of people have come to the conclusion that there must be some kind of God because of the sun, moon and stars that produce light, and the blessing of fire that also brings light and warmth. Romans 1:18 says, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature have clearly been seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." People who have no knowledge of the Bible can come to conclusions about God's eternal power and divine nature by observing something as amazing as light and how it functions and supports our lives.

A few years ago, my wife and I had an opportunity to visit the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. We went through the room that displayed the famous painting by Van Gogh "Irises." How could an artist take something so simple as a bunch of flowers and make such a masterpiece? The painting stands as a lasting monument to the talent of the artist. The same can also be said for the Sistine Chapel. How could one man produce such amazing scenes from the Bible in colored plaster, or a sculpture in white marble of Mary holding the body of Jesus taken from the cross, or even the vaulted ceiling for St Peter? What kind of hand and what kind of mind could devise such things? The human being in his natural condition, even without any knowledge of the Bible, is led to ask questions about how this world came to be and how it was designed.

Hebrews 3:4 says, "Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." If you came home from work one day and found a large load of dirt dumped on your driveway, you would assume that someone backed up a big truck and dumped the dirt. That is the way we think. We would never consider it an option that the dirt just appeared there suddenly by itself or that it fell out of the sky. The world in which we are living is much more complex than a load of dirt. It has to have a designer. Everything in nature and logic and human reason tells us this must be true.

2) This true God reveals himself to us in the Bible

I can learn about God's power and his greatness from the world he has made, just as I can learn that Michelangelo was a talented artist by looking at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. If I want to learn more about this famous artist, I can read about his life in the book, "The Agony and the Ecstasy."

The God who was responsible for the burst of energy that created the universe and then put it together is a God who has chosen to make himself known to us on the pages of the Bible. He tells us in wherever he makes his name known he will come to us and bless us.

In the opening words of the Bible our God reveals himself with a name that indicates he is much different from the human beings he has created. The name of "God" is actually a plural form, "ELOHIM." Later on in this first chapter when God creates man, he says, "Let us make man in our own image." Christians believe this is already a reference to the one true God who reveals himself in the rest of Scripture as one God, yet three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If we look more closely at these opening words of Genesis we discover that the Holy Spirit was present in creation. "The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." The Hebrew word for "hover" could actually be translated as "brooding" the way a mother hen sits on the eggs to hatch them and bring them to life. In the Nicene Creed of the Christian faith we confess that we believe in the Holy Spirit who is "the Lord and giver of life."

As we read more of the Bible we discover that Jesus was also present with the Father and the Spirit involving himself in the creation of the world. It says in John 1 the Word was with God in the beginning. Then it goes on to say, "Through him all were made, without him nothing was made that has been made." Jesus was not a created being as some would falsely claim. Jesus was co-creator with the Father and the Spirit from all eternity. Nothing was made without Jesus. Colossians 1:16 also says of Jesus, "For by him all things were created." The God behind the tremendous outburst of energy that created our world is a special God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We cannot learn about these important truths about God from observing his power in nature. We can only come to believe in this one true God by reading the Bible and listening to God speak to us.

Some years ago we were teaching an introduction to the Bible and one lady had absolutely no knowledge of God's Word whatsoever, but she was eager to learn and read and grow in the Word. We came to the lesson on the Holy Trinity and showed how God reveals himself to us in the Bible as one God and yet three persons. After class she confessed that she had a hard time understanding this and believing it. When St. Augustine became a Christian, he too struggled with a teaching there are three persons and one God. One day he saw a child playing along the beach, taking a bucket of water from the sea and putting it into a hole he had dug. He heard the child say, "I am going to take all the water in the sea and put it into this hole I have dug. Then it dawned on him that he was trying to do that with the Holy Trinity, put the infinite majestic God into the confines of his limited mind.

Did this lady ever come to accept and believe in the teaching of the Holy Trinity? When we came to a study of Jesus' resurrection of Jesus she said she had found a major mistake in the Bible. We had discussed how Jesus raised himself from dead. During the week in her further reading she discovered how a verse that said the Father raised Jesus from the dead. Imagine her excitement when we were able to point out verses that said the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. That opened her heart to believe in the mystery of the Trinity, even though she could not understand it. Father, Son and Holy Spirit involved in the creation of the world. Father, Son and Holy Spirit involved in the raising of Jesus from the dead.

The God behind the explosion of energy that created the universe displayed an even greater power and strength when his love found a way to rescue us from the sin that destroyed our world and destroyed our lives. Our heavenly Father sent Jesus his Son to become one of us, to become sin for us and be punished in our place. Romans 5 tells us, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God sent his Son for us. Jesus died for us. The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, has opened our hearts to believe.

Often we begin our worship standing in awe and amazement at the hand of the Triune God that pours out his blessings to us. We greet each other with the words, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you." That's the true God the cosmologist and everyone needs to know not just to understand how the world began, but also how to escape the judgment to come and the destruction of this present world. Amen.