

THE * BIG QUESTION

Where did it **ALL** come from?

THE BIG ANSWERS

1. Some people think the universe has always been around. They say that it is always creating itself. It always has and always will. But this theory doesn't explain where matter itself came from.
2. Others think that the universe just happened by chance. Certain elements came together in the right place, at the right time. But if the whole universe was a big accident, why do we see form and order? And even if the universe did happen by chance, where did the material to start it all come from? The second "big answer" ignores the question of where it all came from too.
3. Some people say that the universe was designed by an intelligent cause or agent (Intelligent Design).
4. Still others use the Bible to answer the "big question." Their answer is simple: "In the beginning God created. . . ." They believe God created the universe with a specific plan in mind.

Believers in the first two answers are quick to cry out against the other answers, "That God stuff isn't logical! It's not scientific! It just doesn't make sense!" But does it?

These answers actually make a lot of sense. They address the question "Where did it all come from?" In the first two answers, either the universe itself or the molecules mentioned would have to have come from nothing, with no action from any outside force. And that doesn't make sense!

The idea that God created it all seems to be the best answer. It's the only answer that answers "the big question" at its bottom line.



S **CIENTIFIC SENSE?**

Some evolutionists claim that believing God created the universe doesn't make scientific sense. The theory of evolution, in its most basic form, says that all living things developed (evolved) from simpler living things. Some even say that life, like the universe, began by chance (the right molecules in the right place at the right time again).

It takes a lot of faith to believe all of that. First, you have to believe in the chance meeting of the right molecules to begin the universe. Then, if that managed to happen, you have to believe in another chance meeting of the right molecules to start life on earth.

C **OULD AUNT EDNA HAVE BEEN AN AMOEBA?**

You also have to believe that the early forms of life were able to develop into more complex forms. No one has recorded an amoeba becoming a more complex life form.

If simple life forms evolved into more complex life forms, layers of rock in the earth would show it. Simple fossils would appear in the lower layers and more complex fossils in the higher levels. Many mountain ranges, though, show complex fossils in the bottom layers, with simpler fossils on top!

And you've heard of the famous missing links. Scientists have searched for years to find fossil evidence to link one species to

another. Genetic changes do occur within each species. But there is no evidence that a simple species evolved into a more complex one.

The Bible clearly states that the living God created life. He spoke matter into being, then made many different creatures—"each according to its kind." We see variety in living beings because God made them that way.

S **UPPORT FROM SCIENCE**

At least two scientific principles support belief in creation:

Principle #1—*Conservation of Energy*. Energy can't be created or destroyed—just transferred. And it takes a huge amount of energy to create a small amount of matter. Where did the energy needed to get things rolling come from? The Bible says the source was God.

Principle #2—*Second Law of Thermodynamics*. When left alone, things tend to decay and become less organized. (Think about your room after a few weeks without cleaning it up!) Just the opposite would have to have happened for the universe to have come into being by chance.

T **HE BIG DECISION**

The two options: it all happened by chance, or by God's choice. "In the beginning God created . . ." is not simply a Christian answer to the "big question." It just might be the only reasonable answer.





**BIBLE
QUESTIONS
FOR
TEAM**

A

1. What was the last thing God made?
2. Why do you think God made this last out of all His creation?
3. In what ways were humans more special than God's other creations?
4. Think of seven words that describe God, write them down, and then read them to the rest of the class.
5. Circle the words describing God that could also describe humans. Explain how these words relate to Genesis 1:26.
6. Each team member: Describe one unique way you are made in the image of God.



BIBLE
QUESTIONS
FOR
TEAM

B

1. According to the first four words of Genesis 1:1, what existed "in the beginning"?
2. What did God do during

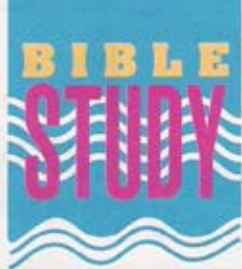
the first day of creation?

3. What did God do during the sixth day of creation?

4. How did God create light? What does this creative act reveal about the Creator?

5. The three people who live closest together should answer this question: What does being created in God's image mean?

6. Each team member: Describe one unique way you are made in the image of God.



¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."

...

⁷God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁸And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

...

⁹Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

TODAY'S
SCRIPTURE

●
SELECTED
VERSES
FROM
GENESIS

¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years."

...

¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

...

²³And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

...

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."



CONVERSATION OVERHEARD

BITS
PIECES

I never assume anything is true. I prove it by the scientific method.

What about love? You can't prove it with science, but it's still there.



Love is different from the questions science can answer.

Then you admit there are questions science can't answer?

Okay, I admit it. But evolution is different. There's evidence for it.



Evidence that man came from the ape?

Right.

And that the ape came from the fish?

Simplified, but true.

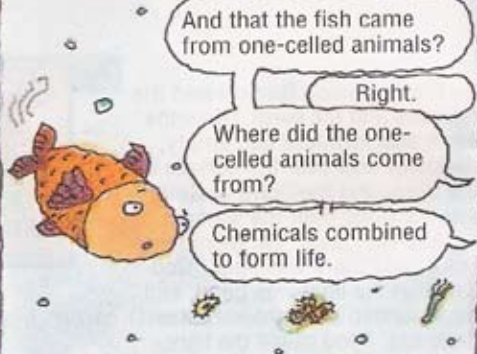


And that the fish came from one-celled animals?

Right.

Where did the one-celled animals come from?

Chemicals combined to form life.



Where did the chemicals come from?

The earth. And it probably came from an explosion of a larger planet.

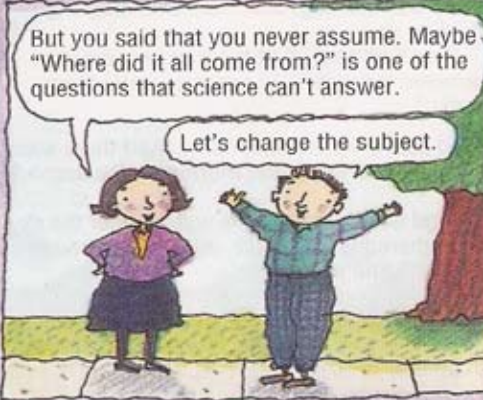
Where did that planet come from?

It was just there. We have to assume . . .



But you said that you never assume. Maybe "Where did it all come from?" is one of the questions that science can't answer.

Let's change the subject.



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Awesome GOD

But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.
Jeremiah 10:12.

If you think God's creation is awesome, just think how much more awesome God Himself is!

MONDAY Read Psalm 19:1, preferably sitting outside in your yard or in a park. Take some time today to notice God's creation around you. Write a poem to praise God for His creativity and power.

TUESDAY Come up with as many adjectives (descriptive words) as you can to describe God's power. Use these words in a prayer to give God glory.

WEDNESDAY Look at Jeremiah 10:12. When you read the action words—made, founded, stretched—what images come to your mind? Draw a picture or write a song using these images.

THURSDAY Read Jeremiah 10:12 again. How does knowing that God created the heavens and earth make you feel about Him?

FRIDAY Read Genesis 1:2a. What pictures come to mind when you read the words "formless and empty"? Now picture the light, sky, seas, and so on, appearing as God speaks them into existence. Thank Him for creating the earth.

SATURDAY If you can, get up early and take a walk outside. Take time to notice little things that you might normally pass by. Sing a praise hymn that talks about God's creation.

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