**Genesis 1 verse 1: “In the beginning-- God! --Created the heavens and the earth! “**

The opening text of holy write is potent! It introduces God himself- the object of our faith. Faith is only as good and powerful as its object!So if you put your faith in a stone, your faith is only as good as the stone. The object of our faith is the Creator of the Universe! The phrase “heavens and the earth” is a merism. Merismis a figure of speech that takes two opposite extremities to communicate the totality of that which is communicated. If you want to say you searched everywhere you will say I searched ‘high and low’...This is not to say you limited yourself to a vertical spectrum- I searched everywhere. If we want to say that everyone is invited – we may say ‘young and old’ are invited. Psalm 139 the psalmist says ‘God knows my downsitting, and my uprising” – God knows all of my actions, there is not action I perform that is outside of His knowledge.

The first verse of the Bible makes a grand claim- In the beginning, God created the ‘heavens and the earth’ simply saying God created the ‘whole universe’.

If you can believe this first verse of the Bible, there is nothing you can fail to believe in the rest of the Bible. If God created the sea, surely he can part the sea. If He created man then surely He can revive a man. “Lazarus come forth” is suddenly mundane and simplewhen juxtaposed to the statement “let there be!”. Suddenly you look out into the starrydark sky and read Psalm 33:6 “By the word of Jehovah were the heavens made, And all the host of them by the breath of his mouth” vs 6 “For he spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” My friends God is able to do anything but fail!

I greet you all in the wonderful name of the creator of the universe; His name is not just the name of the lord & savior, but also the world’screator Jesus Christ!

We need to look at Christ Aright! Before we have the cross- we must see Him as creator. He is Creator before He is Saviour and Messiah.Before the Word became flesh John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made”when this is established verse 14 then says “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.” We see Him first as the creator who speaks and stands fast.

But is it true? Is it true that God created the world? There is not a common acceptance of the creation of this world being accredited to God. Scientists would have you believe that if you’re an intelligent being, you can’t truly believe that there is some being out there that created the universe. One scholar says that Africans are stubbornly religious. I want us to stop and examine whether this is consistent with science. Can a thinking, calculating, vigorous mind come to church while thinking calculating and investigating! In other words is the Christian faith a reasonable faith? Do we need to leave our brains at the door when we enter the sanctuary?The Christian faith is reason. Bertrand Russella well-known philosopher, mathematician and atheist, was questioned on a potential encounter with Christ on judgment day- “what would you say to God?” he replied, “Not enough evidence, God! You did not give me enough evidence”!! And so on account of a lack of evidence the Atheist says there is no God! The more honest or cautious agnostic declares ignorance on the matter!

To all, God says: “Come now let us reason together”– that’s the call of God! Isaiah 1:18

Come now let us reason together, this evening I want to say to you our faith can stand scrutiny. We will employ this week aTheo-scientific approach and posit that the Christian faith is logically consistent, empirically adequate and existentially relevant and satisfying. That last one means that our Christian faith is enjoyable, it is also meaningful and sustainable logically and philosophically.It’s great to be a Christian! When you share with non-believers – you ought to do so with love and caring, there is no use chopping someone’s nose off and giving them a rose to smell! You must reason together.

We will start here: there is no effect without a cause.This is what drives the scientific endeavor. Every effect has a cause! This is the truth that drives and permits the scientific pursuit. When a baby is born – there was a cause! And we can trace through DNA who the father is. Everything that is an effect has a cause, if you are the cause take responsibility.When you see a fruit on a tree, there is a cause. When you get sick, blame it on virus or bacteria Scientists often ridicule the Christians because we always talk about God of the gap, when there is no answer then we just simple say “God” the scientists have found explanations for these Gaps and then say “we don’t need God anymore” . The scientists must be consistent with the cause and effect theory when you see the universe, you cannot suddenly change the rules- There must be a cause!

Some will say the world has always been there! That the world is a brute fact! Gen 1:1 disagrees – It says “in the beginning!” Science and mathematics agree with the bible! Mathematics says you cannot have an infinity of regressive events or an infinite regress in time! Think about it, infinity is infinity! So if you have an infinity behind how do you get to now? Mathematically impossible to have infinity in our past- the must be a beginning in order to be able to get to the now. Everything that has a beginning has a cause.

When they talk about the big bang, don’t argue too quickly! They are trying to explain how the world BEGAN. They say the universe is expanding and points to a time when it began- in the lecture rooms they use scientific jargon ‘the universe had infinite density!’ When it had ‘spatial dimensions of 0’. Infinite density? Spatial dimensions of 0? What is that? Spatial dimensions of 0 means you have NOTHING? They are just afraid of using the word nothing because it then begs the question “How do you get something from nothing?”That is the question they cannot answer.

Two ways around it:

1. Nothing caused everything- seems Ludacris to me. Nothing caused the world in its beauty, energy, specified complexity, and purpose.Nothing made sure there was a sun, rightly distanced from the earth, a moon to provide the seasons and keep earth’s rotation stable. Nothing created human beings with hearts, and brains, veins and nerves, a skeletal system, a nervous system, lymphatic system! Nothing!? Yes!Nothing created it ALL! Says the atheist! Those who reject God, embrace nothing! If nothing can do so much, then nothing must be powerful.The mathematics here is nothing+nothing=something. 0x0=everything. I think I now understand why The Bible says, “the fool says in his heart, there is no God” Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1. “ The fool says in his heart-The fool doesn’t want there to be a God.” The heart of the issue is, the issue of the heart.

Steven Hawking, Some of you may be familiar with this brilliant scientist, he tries to explain how you get something from nothing and says “because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing…” His words betray him- ‘because there is a law? A law is not nothing! Gravity is not nothing! Many scientists have seen through this. Those who realize the folly of clinging to nothing – point to space ships and aliens, or kick the can further and talk of multi-verses – all you got is a bigger problem how did the multi-verse come from nothing

1. There is a second option. “In the beginning, God!” Jehovah! The Uncaused Cause! The Unmoved Mover! and The Great I AM! Who dwells in eternity and is not subject but has control over matter space and time. Our Father who is in Heaven! He created the World ex nihilo from nothing! Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which does not appear.” Omnipotent and Omniscient, BenevolentGod created the Universe!

Now we’ll be looking at God not as a craftsman but a creator.

* 1. God is not simply a craftsman- He is a creator. A Craftsman changes something from something to something. From nothing God made everything! A **product** depends on its **producer** and on the **material** out of which it is produced. Repeat.. The more the material is not apt to be fashioned into a product, the greater the producer’s power must be. In this case, The material here that God used is “NOTHING”. How Great must be the Power that makes something out of nothing! One author says “Since there is no proportion between nothing’s utter lack of potency and a finite power, the power that produces something out of nothing must be infinite.” When we call upon God, we are calling upon infinite power. Call Him up! Call Him up! It’s free of charge! He made you, He can Restore you! He brought you here! He surely can carry you through!
  2. Do you have a producer!? Read a book couple of months ago by Devon Franklin called “Produced by Faith” –his message is simple- while in Hollywood there are movies with characters and storylines- there are people you don’t see in the movies but who are responsible for the movies. You may only see them in the credits- these are the producers! They ensure that the story line begins and ends well, that the characters play their roles well, that there are sufficient resources for production and that the finished product markets and sells well. Well, It’s not just the movies that have producers! The Creator of the Universe is my Producer and I’m just a character in this story! He is the Author, the Guide, and the Finisher of my story! I will not wait for my life to end for the credits to roll- I will worship Him who made the heavens and the earth! The Creator! My Lord and My God!

I want to suggest, can we not extend our hands and place them in the hands of the great producer, our Lord our God. He is able to take of you, He is powerful & wise. He will take care of you.

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