

Science vs. God, Who Wins?

April 13 & 14, 2024

Key Bible Verses for Series:

- Key Verse #1- In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15 ESV
- Key Verse #2- For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV

Bible Reading:

- Job 38:4-7 (NLT) "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"
- Psalm 19:1-3 (NLT) "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard."
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NLT) "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

Observation Questions:

1. In Job 38:4-7, what does the passage suggest about the nature of God's creation and His role in it?
2. How does Psalm 19:1-3 describe the way creation communicates the existence and attributes of God?
3. According to Ezekiel 36:26-27, what transformation does God promise to bring about in a person's life?

Interpretation Questions:

1. What do the questions God poses to Job in Job 38:4-7 imply about human understanding compared to divine wisdom?
2. Considering Psalm 19:1-3, what might be the significance of the heavens declaring the glory of God without words or sound?
3. Reflecting on Ezekiel 36:26-27, how might the promise of a new heart and spirit relate to the evidence of God's existence in one's personal experience?

Application Questions:

1. Reflect on a moment in your life when you felt in awe of creation. How did that experience affect your perception of God's existence and character?
2. Identify a situation where you can share the wonder of creation as a way to discuss the evidence of God's existence with someone this week.
3. Think of a specific area in your life where you desire transformation. What is one step you can take this week to surrender that area to God and seek His new heart and spirit?
4. Can you name a person in your life who is skeptical about faith? How can you use the beauty and order of creation to engage in a meaningful conversation about the possibility of a Creator?
5. When you observe the complexity of life and the universe, how does this reinforce your faith? Share a specific example with the group.

Bonus Content for Daily Devotions: "Science vs. God, Who Wins?"

Day 1: Life's Transformation as Divine Evidence

The most compelling evidence of God's existence is the profound transformation of a human life through an encounter with the divine. This change transcends intellectual debate, serving as a living testament to God's active presence. It is a miracle of the heart and spirit that cannot be replicated or refuted by science.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Reflection: Reflect on your own life transformation. How has encountering God changed you in ways that go beyond human reasoning?

Day 2: Harmony of Science and Faith

Science and faith, rather than being at odds, complement each other, enriching our understanding of both the natural and spiritual realms. The pursuit of scientific knowledge can lead to a deeper appreciation of the divine, as the complexity and order of the universe point to an Intelligent Designer.

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 people are without excuse."

Reflection: How can you integrate your understanding of science with your faith to enhance your appreciation of God's creation?

Day 3: The Universe's Beginning and a Transcendent Creator

The Borde-Guth-Vilenkin Theorem supports the biblical assertion of a universe with a beginning, suggesting the existence of a transcendent Creator. This scientific insight invites us to consider the implications of a universe that is contingent upon a higher power.

Hebrews 11:3 - "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

Reflection: In what ways does the concept of a universe with a beginning affect your understanding of God as the Creator?

Day 4: Fine-Tuning as Evidence of Divine Design

The fine-tuning of the universe is a powerful argument for the existence of an Intelligent Designer. The precise conditions necessary for life and the delicate balance of forces suggest a universe crafted with intentionality, indicative of a wise and purposeful Creator.

Isaiah 45:18 - "For this is what the Lord says—He who created the heavens, He is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—He says: 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'"

Reflection: What does the fine-tuning of the universe reveal to you about the nature and character of God?

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Day 5: Beyond Materialism: Life and Consciousness

The origin of life and the enigma of human consciousness defy naturalistic explanations, pointing to a reality beyond the material. The information-rich structure of DNA and the experience of consciousness suggest the involvement of a divine mind.

Psalm 139:13-14 - "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Reflection: How does the complexity of life and the mystery of consciousness challenge you to seek a deeper relationship with the Creator?

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Pastor Todd's Recommended Reading

(click the title to purchase the book)

[Truth Decay](#): Defending Christianity Against the Challenges of Postmodernism by Douglas Groothuis

[Is God A Moral Monster](#): Making Sense of the Old Testament God by Paul Copan

[True For You But Not For Me](#): Overcoming Objections to Christian Faith by Paul Copan

[Love Thy Body](#): Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality by Nancy Pearcey

[A World Of Difference](#): Putting Christian Truth-Claims to the Worldview Test by Kenneth Samples

[Intellectuals Don't Need God & Other Modern Myths](#) by Allister McGrath

[You Found Me](#): How Unchurched Nones Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith by Rick Richardson

[Questioning The Bible](#): 11 Major Challenges to the Bible's Authority by Jonathan Morrow

[The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas](#): Paul's Mars Hill Experience by Paul Copan & Kenneth Litwak

[Cultural Engagement](#): A Crash Course in Contemporary Issues by Joshua Chatraw & Karen Swallow Prior

[Christians Are Hate-Filled Hypocrites](#) by Bradley Wright

[Meet Generation Z](#): Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World by James Emery White

[Post Christian](#): A Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture by Gene Edward Veith Jr.

[7 Truths That Changed The Word](#) by Kenneth Richard Samples

[The Nones](#): Where They Came From, Who They Are, and Where They Are Going by Ryan Burge

[Return of the God Hypothesis](#): by Stephen Meyer

[Miracles](#): What They Are, Why They Happen, And How They Can Change Your Life by Eric Metaxas

[The Case for a Creator](#): by Lee Strobel

[Forensic Faith](#): by J. Warner Wallace

[Miracles Volume 1 & 2](#): The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts by Craig S. Keener

[The Genesis Debate](#): Three Views on the Days of Creation by J. Ligon Duncan III and multiple authors

[A Matter of Days](#): Resolving a Creation Controversy by Hugh Ross

[How to Be an Atheist](#): Why Many Skeptics Aren't Skeptical Enough by Mitch Stokes

[Navigating Genesis](#): A Scientist's Journey through Genesis 1-11 by Hugh Ross

[Improbable Planet](#): How Earth Became Humanity's Home by Hugh Ross

[Theistic Evolution](#): A Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Critique by J. P. Moreland and others