

FROM FATHER JOHN: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* (John 1:1 – 5)



Dr. Eben Alexander wrote a book entitled *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon’s Journey into the Afterlife*. I’ve never read his book. I only saw a short review of the book but, evidently, one of the things he does in the book is discuss near death experiences and how they prove that heaven exists.

Michael Guillén has a PhD in physics, math, and astronomy from Cornell University, has taught physics at Harvard, and is the former Science Editor for ABC News. He is currently producing a movie based on his latest, bestselling book, *Believing Is Seeing*. He used to be an Atheist but his career in science changed his mind. He thought that people of faith were weak, small-minded folks who just didn’t understand science, “Dr. Guillen ultimately concluded that not only does science itself depend on faith, but faith is actually the mightiest power in the universe. In *Believing Is Seeing*, Dr. Guillen recounts the fascinating story of his journey from Atheism to Christianity, pulling back the curtain on the mystery of faith as no one ever has by citing the latest discoveries in Neuroscience, Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics.” In this book, Guillén discusses where heaven is physically in relationship with the position of the universe.

I didn’t read this book either. I read this in a review of the book. But, these two books that I’ve never read, made me think about something I read that St. Athanasius wrote during the fourth century. It’s entitled *The Discourse Against the Pagans*. In one excerpt from the discourse St. Athanasius discusses how the universe is governed using the examples of the work of a musician in tuning his lyre and the work of a choir to produce a single harmony. I thought I would share this excerpt with you.

May God bless you and all those who love the Lord.

From St. Athanasius:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made. In these words John the theologian teaches that nothing exists or remains in being except in and through the Word.

Think of a musician tuning his lyre. By his skill he adjusts high notes to low and intermediate notes to the rest, and produces a series of harmonies. So too the wisdom of God holds the world like a lyre and joins things in the air to those on earth, and things in heaven to those in the air, and brings each part into harmony with the whole. By his decree and will he regulates them all to produce the beauty and harmony of a single, well-ordered universe. While remaining unchanged with his Father, he moves all creation by his unchanging nature, according to the Father's will. To everything he gives existence and life in accordance with its nature, and so creates a wonderful and truly divine harmony.

To illustrate this profound mystery, let us take the example of a choir of many singers. A choir is composed of a variety of men, women and children, of both old and young. Under the direction of one conductor, each sings in the way that is natural for him: men with men's voices, boys with boys' voices, old people with old voices, young people with young voices. Yet all of them produce a single harmony. Or consider the example of our soul. It moves our senses according to their several functions so that in the presence of a single object they all act simultaneously: the eye sees, the ear hears, the hand touches, the nose smells, the tongue tastes, and often the other parts of the body act as well as, for example, the feet may walk.

Although this is only a poor comparison, it gives some idea of how the whole universe is governed. The Word of God has but to give a gesture of command and everything falls into place; each creature performs its own proper function, and all together constitute one single harmonious order."

