

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God” Hebrews chapter 11 verse 3

How the universe and everything in it came into being is a matter of continued debate. The bible is very clear that God brought it into being through his word; he spoke, and it was. The universe of time, space and matter was not created out of any pre-existing physical material, it came into being out of nothing at God's word of command.

That's difficult for us to get hold of because we are used to reasoning that everything that exists must have had a cause. But, of course, what human reason cannot fathom is the answer to the question “What was the first cause of everything?” By definition, the first cause of everything cannot itself have had a cause. And, in fact, many scientific theories about the origin of the universe postulate that it indeed came into being out of nothing.

Science falls silent at that point, however, resorting to vague speculations. But faith proposes that, since the universe we live in is a universe of order and predictable physical laws, we can reasonably take the view that it was called in to being by an intelligence, and an ultimately powerful one at that. The letter to the Hebrews says no less, telling us, *“what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”* By this it means that the physical universe has a spiritual origin in the spoken command of God.

In the same way, God is the invisible spiritual power that sustains and maintains all things. Even today science offers no certainty about what it is that holds the physical universe together. The very atoms that make up everything are themselves mysterious, made up of components that, logically, ought to repel each other but actually function in orderly complexity of the highest order.

But again, the bible provides an answer that reveals the spiritual forces behind the integrity of the physical universe and everything in it. Paul says about Jesus, in his letter to the Colossians; *“He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.”*

Please understand that I have no desire to dismiss science. I find it fascinating. But because science limits what can be known to what can be physically discerned and reasoned, the spiritual causes behind the natural world are beyond its ability to even acknowledge, let alone penetrate.

Science is very good at telling us how things work, and even why, but we need faith to see the invisible forces that created and sustain them.

Prayer

Father, thank you that in faith we can get an insight into the universe that is closed to the physical sciences. Even now, when scientific insights seem to many to have made faith obsolete, it remains obvious that the natural universe still speaks profoundly about your creative power. Thank you that by faith we can see your glory in your creation. In Jesus name, amen.

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