

**Shayla:** Do you believe in the “Big Bang”?

**Meforshim:**

### **Two Books**

I believe that God gave us two inerrant books in which to discover Him. The first is, of course, the Bible

- **2 Peter 1:20-21 HCSB** First of all, you should know this: no prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation, (21) because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 HCSB** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The Scriptures are, in their original manuscripts, inerrant and infallible because the authors who wrote them were divinely controlled. This process is commonly called “inspiration”.

The second book, equally inerrant, is nature.

- **Psalms 19:1-4 HCSB** For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. (2) Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. (3) There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. (4) Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.
- **Romans 1:18-20 HCSB** For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, (19) since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. (20) From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse.

God created the universe. Nature, being both mindless and yet governed by strict laws, is inextricably bound to the truth. The physical and energetic universe is incapable of making “errors” in the sense of going against God’s will because it is controlled directly by God and, having no will of its own, is unable to rebel. It follows certain physical laws and will never diverge, short of interference by God or man, from these principles.

### **The proper attitude**

Because of this, I may observe the universe and know that it will never lie to me. I may observe the Scriptures and know they will never lie to me. Because both were created and directed by God, they will never contradict each other. If I look at them and see conflict, it is not because the Scriptures have erred or Nature is lying; it is my own lack of understanding that is creating the difference. I simply am not yet wise enough to reconcile the difference I see.

### **The relativism of time**

It is interesting to note that in physics, time is always measured from the point of view of the observer. Tell me – who was present at creation? Certainly not man! In fact, the planet itself was not formed until “day” three. So, how do we understand “evening and morning day...” when there was no planet, no horizon over which the sun could set or rise? Time (up until “day” three at least) must be measured by the observer and that observer was God.

The style of writing and presentation in the first two chapters of Genesis are utterly different than all the other styles in the entire Bible. Once we reach chapter three, “biblical time” and “historical time” coincide quite nicely. However, those first two chapters are

notoriously controversial. My contention is that if we understand the relativism of time as it is measured by the observer then the entire issue goes away.

Physics teaches that there are two distinct phases to time: linear time (time as we experience it) and block time. In theology, we also believe that there is a difference in how time flows in God's immanent state and in His transcendent state. God's transcendent sense of time is strangely similar to the way block time is described.

- **Psalms 90:4 HCSB** For in Your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by, like a few hours of the night.
- **2 Peter 3:8 HCSB** Dear friends, don't let this one thing escape you: with the Lord one day is like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years like one day.

Notice that it is not (as some would like to simplistically interpret) that each creation "day" is a thousand years. That is not what God said. To Him time is irrelevant. It goes both ways. 1,000 years are like a day; a day is like 1,000 years. Isn't it uncanny that in physics time SHOULD run both ways but they can't figure out why?

How does this relate to the issue of the Big Bang theory that is given to us by the Standard Theory? Let's examine the biblical account, compare and contrast it to the Standard Theory and see what comes up.

## DAY ONE:

- **Genesis 1:1-5 HCSB** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (2) Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. (3) Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (4) God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. (5) God called the light "day," and He called the darkness "night." Evening came, and then morning: the first day.

**Black hole** - The Bible says that before creation "The earth was empty, a formless mass cloaked in darkness." The terms used here are "tohu" and "bohu". They literally mean "without form" and "void". What an apt description of a singularity! Everything – even a cloud – has a shape. It may be amorphous but its outline can be traced. A black hole however, with its infinite negative curvature, is truly without form and void.

**Fluctuation** – The Bible further describes the initial condition of the universe as being characterized by the Spirit of God "hovering". This word in Hebrew (*rachaph*; Strong's #7363) literally means "to tremble, shake or vibrate". How interesting that modern physics describes the initial impetus of the Big Bang as being a "quantum fluctuation."

**Sonic wave** – The Scriptures say that the universe was begun with a sound – the sound of God's voice. Physicists recently determined that the Big Bang was characterized by acoustic waves approximately 50 octaves below the threshold of human hearing. The chord is somewhere between a major and a minor third. When brought up the requisite number of octaves so that we can perceive it, it sounds rather like a hissing roar.<sup>1</sup> Go through the Bible and see how many times God's voice is described as the sound of many waters or as a roar and then think about how far ahead of its time the Word actually is!

**Energy spike** – Moses said that everything began suddenly with a great spike of energy that he refers to as light. But ancient Jewish commentators like Maimonides and Nahamihud taught that because the word for light here (*or*; Strong's #52) is also used for things like fire, life or lightning, it was not to be understood as merely that which falls within the human visible spectrum but that it was to be better understood as energy.

**Plasma** – The Bible says that our universe originally took some kind of watery shape. Standard theory claims that at its very beginning the universe was a lot like a thick hot soup.

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<sup>1</sup> If you'd actually like to hear this sound go to <http://faculty.washington.edu/jcramer/BBSound.html>

Even today over 99% of the universe takes the form of plasma, a unique condition where energy runs freely and acts in many ways like a liquid.

## DAY TWO:

- **Genesis 1:6-8 HCSB** Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." (7) So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. (8) God called the expanse "sky." Evening came, and then morning: the second day.

**Cool down** - As the energy cooled down, from an observer's point of view, it would appear to coalesce and become translucent in some places and opaque in others. The Bible describes this as light and dark being divided.

**Accretion of matter** - Then chapter one describes the energy as being in a liquid state and coalescing in space creating semi solid areas divided by spaces. Sounds like matter beginning to accrete to me!

## DAY THREE:

- **Genesis 1:9-10 HCSB** Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. (10) God called the dry land "earth," and He called the gathering of the water "seas." And God saw that it was good.

**Pooling of liquid water** - After that the point of view zooms down to one individual planet. As it began to cool, the liquid water pooled in the low spots

- **Genesis 1:11-13 HCSB** Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it, according to their kinds." And it was so. (12) The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it, according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. (13) Evening came, and then morning: the third day.

**Vegetative life** – The Scriptures then describe life as first being vegetative, grasses coming before plants and trees. Enough radiation would be seeping through the thick gaseous atmosphere and the ground would be warm enough to create an ideal situation where mosses, lichens and such would gain a toe hold.

## DAY FOUR:

- **Genesis 1:14-19 HCSB** Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years. (15) They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. (16) God made the two great lights--the greater light to have dominion over the day and the lesser light to have dominion over the night--as well as the stars. (17) God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, (18) to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. (19) Evening came, and then morning: the fourth day.

**Atmosphere becomes translucent** – As the planet continued to cool down and the geological processes calmed, the atmosphere would have become more translucent and the sun, stars and moon would have appeared.

## DAY FIVE:

- [Genesis 1:20-23 HCSB](#) Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." (21) So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. *He also created every winged bird according to its kind.* And God saw that it was good. (22) So God blessed them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." (23) Evening came, and then morning: the fifth day.

**Oceanic life preceded that of birds** – The Bible agrees with the fossil record that non-plant life began in the oceans. The next thing we see after that is birds in the air. Again, the findings of the paleontologist and the theologian can agree.

## DAY SIX:

- [Genesis 1:24-25 HCSB](#) Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. (25) So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

**Land animals soon followed** – It is fascinating to watch this continual progression, this vast panoply of life as it passes before our eyes. We now get to see (through the eyes of the inspired prophet) that land animals came after the fish and the birds.

We must note, however, one subtle difference. All of these forms of life reproduce "after their own kind." This is a serious difference between the biblical view and the current evolutionary view. As a Christian I must believe that all life was created to reproduce after its own kind. I believe in great evolutionary changes, both natural and artificial. After all, look at the continual mutations of viruses. Observe the resistance to our poisons that insects are able to develop. Consider the man-made difference in dogs: they range from the teacup Chihuahua to the Mastiff! However, a dog is a dog is a dog. We've not been able to make an animal so different that it no longer was able to breed with others of its own species. Every time we reach that barrier and try to cross it, they become sterile. Again – the Bible and science agree.

- [Genesis 1:26-27 HCSB](#) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." (27) So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

**Human life finally arrives** – The Bible recounts that humans came last and that there is a unique difference between humans and animals. God tells us more about it in the complementary account in Genesis two. He breathes the breath of life – the "nephesh" – into us. We are uniquely different from the animals. Not in our ability to think - for many animals do; not in our ability to emote - for again many animals experience fear, joy, sadness etc; not in our ability to be self-aware nor in our ability to lie or deceive because many animals are very cunning and will both escape from and lay traps.

No – the unique difference is in our spirituality. Our ability to sense and communicate with God. Therein lies the great difference. And when we deny that capability, when we say like the fool in Psalms "there is no God" we descend to the state of animals.

## Conclusion

Do I believe in six literal days of creation? Yes. However, literal days as measured on Mars are different from literal days as measured on Earth. Days as measured by the universe are yet another thing entirely!

Do I believe in an evolutionary process? Yes. However, I believe that the evolutionary process does not cross the boundaries of species. I believe in a meddling, tweaking, fiddling God who created - not just once, but continuously. I believe in an Artist who designed His work to be constantly changing and growing – not just humans but all of creation.

Whether you believe in fiat creationism ex nihilo or in theistic evolution or progressive creationism or simple evolutionary processes, the fact remains that behind it all is God. The question of how He chose to create is simply not as important as the question of why He created. Answer the first and you simply have an interesting theory. Answer the second and you have a life-changing metaphysical outlook!

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun. - Psalms 19:2-4 HCSB*