

Did God Exist Before the Big Bang?

By Norm R. Allen Jr.

Theists continually maintain that the Big Bang theory makes no sense unless God could have produced the explosion. Indeed, *The Buffalo News* carried an article titled "God must have existed before the Big Bang," by Zach Krajacic, in the December 21, 2014 issue (p. H2). Krajacic, of Lancaster, New York, is vice president of 107.5 FM the Station of the Cross Catholic Radio Network, headquartered in Williamsville, New York. He was reacting to Pope Francis' recent comments that "The Big Bang, that today is considered to be the origin of the world, does not contradict the creative intervention of God. On the contrary, it requires it."

However, it is important to understand that this is not what science or leading physicists maintain. This is simply what most theists believe. What is worse, this idea is bandied about as though it were a matter of common sense, when in reality, it is incredibly dogmatic and thoroughly unscientific.

The Big Bang is a naturalistic theory with naturalistic – not theistic – implications. It deals not with God, but with the natural world. It leaves nothing for God to do, and the theory is of no benefit to theists. It deals with natural phenomena and the expansion of the universe. (Incidentally, I know of nothing in Genesis that suggests that the universe is expanding. The biblical view is that the universe was created in its present form.)

Theists love to maintain that God has always existed. However, unsurprisingly, they never present strong evidence to support this outrageous claim. They dogmatically state that matter could not have always existed. However, to make such a presumption would suggest that theists know far more about nature's secrets than they know. In any case, they magically posit a mystery God and claim that God must have always existed. Obviously, though, this is nothing more than the common logical fallacy of special pleading. In other words, theists claim that everything and everyone but God must have been created or caused. Yet there is no good reason to suppose that a possibly existent God – as opposed to actually existent nature – has always existed. This appears to be little more than wishful thinking.

Matter acting in accordance with the laws of physics and biochemistry organizes itself. We see this, for example, in the natural formation of stars and in the way amino acids spontaneously and selectively organize themselves. Nature is simply not nearly as weak as most theists imagine it to be. Nature has no need of any God. Yet nature has many secrets that we may never discover, even though many scientists believe it is just a matter of time before we have a Theory of Everything (TOE).

Predictably, theists will ask, where did the laws of physics and biochemistry come from? That is to say, they are always anxious to fill in real and apparent gaps in our knowledge by positing a mystery God. However, the laws of physics could have come about after the Big Bang when the universe began to cool and expand. The laws of biochemistry likewise no doubt came from nature. There is simply no good reason to suppose that we must assume that there must be something above and beyond nature to help us explain that which exists *within* nature.

Krajacic also contends that evolutionists believe that "human beings evolved from monkeys." He then wonders, "where did monkeys come from?" First, monkeys come from the natural world. Second, evolutionists do not maintain that human beings came from monkeys. Human beings came from primitive apes, and the fossil record and DNA evidence make this fact abundantly clear. Human beings and chimpanzees share a common ancestor.

Does the Big Bang theory "contradict the creative intervention of God?" Not necessarily. It just makes such intervention unnecessary. How could this be otherwise? This is what science is all about. It is not about trying to prove or disprove the existence of God. It is about trying to understand the natural world.

However, Krajacic is a Christian. In Genesis chapter one, verse one, we read that God created the heaven and the earth. First, science has yet to discover any evidence of heaven. Second, the earth was not "created" in the beginning. (It is a mere 4 ½ billion years old.) We have long known that stars are formed (naturally) first, and then planets. In other words, our sun came first, and later the planets. Yet, the Bible writers did not even understand that the sun is a star (Genesis 1:16). This would be forgivable if so many theists did not maintain that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. In any case, the Big Bang theory does not suggest that the universe was created by God.

Pope John Paul II received great applause from secularists when he accepted the theory of evolution as being consistent with biblical teaching. However, is this true? After all, evolution by natural selection, in the words of Jerry A. Coyne, professor of ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago, is a long, wasteful, painful process. Why would a perfectly intelligent and perfectly good God choose such a process to bring his beloved human beings into existence? Besides, if God directs evolution, then it is no longer evolution by natural selection. It becomes evolution by *supernatural* selection. But let's be honest. Is that really what Darwin had in mind? It is certainly not good science to say the very least.

Let's not kick our collective sanity and intelligence to the curb by positing a possibly existent mystery God to fill in real and perceived gaps in our knowledge. If history has taught us anything, it is that naturalistic explanations always supplant theistic explanations in the end. And why should it be otherwise?

