



Hebrews 11:3

By Faith we Know God Created Sun, Sept 21st 2008

What would you do with 10 Billion dollars?

- I can tell you what some did – built the world's largest atom smasher
- Housed in a 17 mile tunnel buried 330 feet beneath the earth in the fields along the Swiss-French border
- Following 20 years of planning & work - CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research test fired their new atom smasher a week and half ago
- A beam of protons clockwise around the 17-mile tunnel with a second beam going the opposite direction – seeking to smash together particles at close to the speed of light.
- "The first technical challenge has been met," said a jubilant Robert Aymar, director-general of CERN. "What you have just seen is the result of 20 years of effort. It all went like clockwork. Now it's for the physicists to show us what they can do. "They are ready to go for discoveries," Aymar said. "Man has always shown he wants to know where he comes from and where he will go, where the universe comes from and where it will go. So here we're looking at essential questions for mankind."

My simple question: "Why"

- Draw you back to Jr High science class – explaining scientific theory
- Begins with **Question/Observation**
- **Research/ Gather facts** you can about the question, issue
- **Construct Hypothesis** – suggested explanation for a phenomenon
- **Test/prove Hypothesis** – experimental, observable, repeatable
- **Scientific Theory** – not really a fact – solid proposition
- According to science – all the understandings of the beginning of the earth, of life – are hypothesis's – not observable, repeatable, testable
 - Thus...at heart of the 10 Billion spent at Cern...this is the issue

It is exactly this issue of beginnings that God brings before us in **Heb 11:3**

I. Hebrews 11:3

1. **By Faith** - what this chapter is about—call to faith, illustration, encouragement
 - a. End of **Chap 10** – warned of those who would draw back from faith, God
 - b. **11:1-2** – describe what faith does – upholds our hope, draws to unseen
 - c. Reminder – faith is a response to God of trust and obedience
 2. **We understand**
 - a. Today we begin the first of 18 examples that God wants to draw us to
 - b. This one is unique – not what others did by faith, but what we know
 3. **The worlds** Gk works is aion– matter, space, time – encompasses all, includes
 - a. Hard to translate – some versions say ages, or worlds, universe...more
 - b. In Physics call this hypothesis – spacetime continuum – package deal
 - c. Believe it is a true statement – time is a physical property – based in our orbit around sun, spinning of our planet
 - d. God is omnipresent – outside of time, in all at same time (more in moment)
 - e. The point is – this matter, space, time – is the focus here
 4. **were framed** katartizo-lit make perfect, fit, prepared, in its appropriate condition
 - a. Focus of the word is not on the how, but the what – perfectly ready
 - b. Amazing truth, and statement – the things needed for life – massive
 - c. Consider just a couple of the factors God “framed” for life on earth
 - i) **The Sun - if more than one: tidal interactions would disrupt planetary orbits, if less than one: not enough heat produced for life**
 - ii) **If the sun were redder or bluer - insufficient photosynthetic response**
 - iii) **If the earth were farther from sun - too cool for a stable water cycle, if closer too warm for a stable water cycle**
 - iv) **If the earth’s surface gravity if stronger: atmosphere would retain huge amounts of ammonia and methane if weaker: atmosphere would lose too much water**
 - v) **If the thickness of crust of the earth was thicker: too much oxygen would be transferred from the atmosphere to the crust, if thinner: volcanic and tectonic activity would be too great**
 - vi) **If the rotation period were longer: temperature differences would be too great, if shorter: atmospheric wind velocities would be too great**
 - vii) **If the axial tilt were greater or lesser: surface temperature differences be too great**
 - d. Others have and will do great things on – look up Anthropic Principle
 - e. Simply – this is an amazing planet – framed for us, made fit for us
 - f. Isa 45:18 – formed it to be inhabited...wow
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5. **by the word of God** - rhema – the spoken word
 - a. Turn to Genesis 1 – read verses 1:1,3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26 – God said
 - b. All that is – came into being by the voice of God
6. **Not from visible** – latin term ex nihilo – out of nothing
 - a. Gen 1:1 – everything had a beginning
 - b. Personally – I like this a lot, helps my small mind
 - i) Remember clearly 7th grade Science class – talking of evolution, creation
 - ii) Evolution – where did the molecules come from? Where begin?
 - iii) Teaching talked about God. My question – where did God come from, begin. Her answer – we don't ask those kind of questions...upset me
 - iv) Yet, here – it is answered – time, space, matter – had a beginning
 - v) Problem for us is to imagine timelessness, but it is what God tells us
7. Wow....consider what this is telling us

II. Genesis 1 – How did God create

1. Want you to understand – there are multiple hypothesis's on how all began

- a. Even in evolutionary circles – wide ranges of thoughts, opinions
- b. Further – Christians disagree on this, having different thoughts about
- c. Christine asked me: Can someone who believes in evolution be a Christian?
 - i) My answer – can a Christian be wrong and still be saved? Yes
- d. Your understanding of this is not a basis of your salvation
- e. After all done you may disagree with me – ok if you are wrong 😊

2. First Hypothesis – Evolution

- a. Life evolved. Lots of ways people imagine this happening, big bang etc
- b. Predominant thought in America, in world today

3. Second Theistic – Evolution

- a. **God used the process of evolution to create – melding the two, embracing**
 - i) This opinion is quite popular and growing.
 - ii) Consider two articles released this week
 - A. **Charles Darwin to Receive Apology from the Church of England for Rejecting Evolution – Sept 14th**
 - B. **Vatican to host meeting on evolutionary theory – Sept 16th**
- b. **Day Age Theory**
 - i) Each of six days in Gen 1 encompass millions of years...order problem
- c. **Progressive Evolution**
 - i) Ignores Gen 1 and the order here – says more of a “moral tell”
 - ii) Believes God used evolution as science defines it
- d. **Gap Theory**
 - i) Sees huge time gap between verse 2 and 3 – race of people w/p souls

4. All of these Evolutionary Theories are wrong – Biblically

- a. Clearly declares God created in six days – evening and morning
- b. Bible tells us that death entered creation through sin—**Rom 5:12**
 - i) If we believe anything but a literal creation, 6,000 years ago – if we adopt any other theory – we are allowing for death before sin
 - ii) Romans is wrong then too...death, pain, suffering are what God created
- c. Creation subject to consequences of man – sin, **Rom 8:20-21**
- d. Christ conquered and will remove even death – **Rom 15:20-21**

5. I believe with all my heart – God created world in 6 days, 6 thousand yrs ago

- a. Jim, what about all the science that “proves” evolution

- b. Actually...is none – circumstantial, circular and misapplied
- c. Do believe in “microevolution” – within species, not Macroevolution
- d. Fossil record – better points to a global flood than millions of years
- e. Are great resources out there – Answers in Genesis and more

III. Real Issue for us...is faith

1. Faith is not sight – 2 Cor 5:17

- a. Not to live on what we see – but by faith. Our sight can be wrong
- b. Science has been wrong over and over again.
- c. Any contradictions, are only apparent – will prove out....
- d. Yet, what holds me – is not my sight...but faith
- e. By faith the most simple believer has an understanding that the smartest person in the world cannot have.

2. Faith comes from hearing God, His Word – Rom 10:17

- a. Faith is a response – hearing God, believing Him

3. Why is this the first of the examples of faith

- a. Rest are really built on this....if can't get this, rest become moot
- b. If disbelieve **Gen 1-2**....rest will follow, Noah, Jonah, Jesus
- c. In the beginning God” These first four words of the Bible form the foundation for faith. Believe these words, and you can believe all that follows in the Bible.
- d. Bible becomes Greek Mythology with nice morals...but not real
- e. Thus calls to faith...are not real, not to be applied in real life
- f. Answers in Genesis cartoons

Conclusion

What is the basis of your life?

There are two explanations for the origin of this universe. One is speculation, and the other is revelation. By faith we accept revelation, and, my friend, by faith you will accept speculation.

If based on the consensus of mankind – scary

- Like the politician that is driven by the poles. I believe whatever poles tell me I should believe
- Men constantly change – untrustworthy

If base life on your own understanding – on sight

- If I can't see it, understand it – won't believe – in a bad place
- You are faulty, your understanding....limited

God is calling us to live by faith

- Not a blind leap in the dark – calculated, wise, truth - reasonable
- Faith is to account God as true – believe Him, His Word
- Believe His word about creation
- Believe His word about sin, heaven, hell
- Believe His word about His Son – died once for all