

Christ is Superior to the Prophets
Hebrews 1:1-2
Part Three

It is human nature to be curious about the origin of things, which of course would include a curiosity about the origin of the physical universe. In other words, how could we live in this world, with all of its beauty, with all of its complexity and with all of its variety and not wonder about where it all came from? How could we look up at the sun during the day and the stars and the moon at night and not wonder where it all came from? How could we look around us at the mountains, the rivers, the streams, the clouds, the fish, the birds, the animals, as well as at all the people and not wonder where it all came from? I don't believe it is possible. It is a wonderment that is natural to us. We are humans and it is our nature to be curious about the origin of things.

So where should we go to find the answer to the question that we have about the origin of the physical universe? Many people have turned to science for the answer to this question, for they truly believe that science can give them that answer.

So, what is the answer that science is giving to this question? The answer that science is giving to this question invariably revolves around an evolutionary model. This evolutionary model produces many different evolutionary theories but it all comes from the same evolutionary model.

Presently the most captivating of those evolutionary theories that comes from this evolutionary model, for those who are seeking an answer from science, is the Big Bang Theory.

And what is the Big Bang Theory? The Big Bang Theory is a theory that was initially put forward by a man named George Gamow in 1947, which espouses the idea that approximately 10 billion years ago all the matter of the universe was concentrated in one place in an extremely dense primordial fireball, which then violently exploded, sending out hydrogen gas in every direction, which eventually cooled and condensed through gravitational forces into the galaxies, stars and planets, which we all are very familiar with. One of those planets, of course, is our planet, which science tells us, because it possessed the right conditions, made it possible for life to evolve

and to evolve into the complex life forms, such as ourselves through natural processes without the involvement of God,

Now all of this is very interesting, but is it convincing? Now I can't speak for others, but I can speak for myself. I do not believe this is convincing at all. In fact, I believe this explanation for the origin of the universe, and all that we know about the physical universe, is laughable.

But don't get me wrong. I am not laughing at science. Science is a good thing. But the Big Bang Theory, as well as every other evolutionary theory, is laughable. And why would I say this? Let us for a moment just consider the Big Bang Theory. And in considering this theory I would like to ask you just a few questions.

First of all, where did this hypothetical fireball that exploded come from? What was its origin? Those who promote this theory are not able to explain it. They are not able to explain it because they do not know. So if those who propose this theory do not know the origin of this supposed fireball how can they in good faith put forward this theory as an explanation for the origin of the universe, when they cannot even explain the origin of their primordial fireball?

Secondly, assuming for the sake of argument that there was a primordial fireball that exploded, could this violent explosion account for this amazingly complex and beautiful universe in which we live in light of the second law of thermodynamics, which states that under normal conditions all systems left on their own tend to become disordered, dispersed, and corrupted in direct relation to the amount of time that passes? And what is the answer to this question? In light second law of thermodynamics I do not believe that the Big Bang Theory or any other evolutionary theory, based upon what they call natural processes, can account for this amazingly complex and beautiful universe in which we live.

So has science, through all their evolutionary theories including the Big Bang Theory, provided us an acceptable answer to explain the origin of this universe? I don't believe so. In fact, I don't believe that science will be able to provide us that answer. Why? The origin of the universe was not natural but it was supernatural. In other words, the origin of the universe cannot be explained apart from God. And therefore until God is put into the equation there cannot be an adequate explanation for the origin of the universe.

And hopefully this thought will come alive for us this morning as we return back to our study of Hebrews, which was written by an unknown author to a group of Hebrew Christians living in Rome around 67-69 AD in order to strengthen their faith in the midst of a great persecution so that they in the midst of that persecution would not be tempted to turn from Christ and back to Judaism.

So how did the author of this letter seek to strengthen the faith of these struggling Hebrew Christians by his letter? He sought to strengthen their faith by showing them throughout his letter that Christ was superior to anything that they might have left behind in Judaism, which led us to the question that we are now seeking to answer as we continue our study of this book. And what is that question?

How did the author of the book of Hebrews see Christ as superior? He saw Christ as superior in numerous ways.

First of all, the author of the book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets (Hebrews 1:1-4). So in what way did the author of Hebrews see Christ as superior to these prophets?

The author of the book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets because he believed that Christ, being God's Son, was the culmination of divine revelation (Hebrews 1:1, 2a).

In other words, the author of the book of Hebrews saw the Old Testament prophets simply as an opening act of divine revelation sent to prepare the way for the true headliner, who was Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

So now let me read for you **Hebrews 1:1-2a**. **“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.”** So did the author of Hebrews see Christ, the only begotten Son of God, as the culmination of divine revelation and therefore as superior to the Old Testament prophets? Absolutely!

But the author of Hebrews was not satisfied with simply having made this point. He wanted to drive this point home to his readers even further. So how did the author seek to accomplish this?

The author of Hebrews continued to drive home the magnitude of Christ's superiority to the Old Testament prophets by providing a sevenfold description of Christ (Hebrews 1:2b-4). The author believed, and rightfully so, that if the recipients of this letter truly saw Christ for who He was and what He had accomplished in this sevenfold description, that Christ's superiority would fully, totally, and completely overshadow the Old Testament prophets, reinforcing in the minds of his readers why the Old Testament prophets were simply the opening act of divine revelation and not the headliner.

And where will we find this sevenfold description of Christ? We will find it beginning at the midpoint of **verse 2** through **verse 4**. So now let me read these verses for you. **“Whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (4) having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.”**

So did the author, beginning at the mid-point of **verse 2** through **verse 4**, continue to drive home the superiority of Christ to the prophets of Old Testament, even beyond what he had already said in **Hebrew 1:1** and the first part **verse 2** by employing a seven-fold description of Christ? Absolutely!

And how did the author begin this seven-fold description? The author of Hebrews described Christ as God's appointed heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2b). So now let us now go back to the mid-point of **verse 2** and see if this is not so. **“In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He [referring to God] appointed heir of all things.”** So did the author of Hebrews describe Christ as God's appointed heir of all things? Yes, absolutely! And would this have made Christ, hopefully in the minds of the readers, superior to the prophets? Yes, certainly!

This is where we were a few weeks ago. And I hope that we explained it thoroughly. This morning we will be moving on to the next part of the author's seven-fold description of Christ. So, what is that next part of that description?

The author of Hebrews described God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the one through whom God made the world (Hebrews 1:2c). Let me now read for you **Hebrews 1:2** and see if this is not so. **“In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”** So did the author in this verse describe God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the one through whom God made the world? Absolutely! This is exactly what the author is saying. And would this thought, if this thought were in fact true, make Christ superior to the prophets? Certainly!

So now let us take some time to expand on this. So, what did the author mean when he told his readers that God made the **“world”** through His Son. Did he mean that God made our **“planet”** through His Son or did the author mean more than that? I believe he meant far more than that.

The common Greek word for world is KOSMOS, but the word used here by this author is the word AIONAS, which can be translated “ages.” This word was chosen not to restrict our thinking about what God made through His Son but rather to expand our thinking about what God made through His Son, or in other words to the whole of the universe excluding nothing. And this idea that God created the whole of the universe excluding nothing is not isolated simply to this passage here in **Hebrews 1:2**.

The idea that God made the ages or in other words the universe through Christ is supported in other New Testament passages (John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16).

Let me read for you **John 1:1-3**. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word as with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things came into being through Him [Through whom? Through God's Son and then what does it say?], and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”**

Let me give you another verse, **1 Corinthians 8:6**. **“Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.”**

Let me give you another verse, **Colossians 1:16**. “**For by Him [referring to Christ] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.**”

So, according to the Word of God, where did the universe come from? According to the Word of God the universe came from God the Father through His Son or in other words through the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where the universe came from according to the Word of God.

So when we look up at the sky during the day and see the sun and contemplate its size and power, who should come to our mind? God and God’s Son should come to our mind, for it was God who made the sun through His Son. When we look up into the night sky and see the moon and the stars, who should come to our mind? God and God’s Son should come to our mind, for it was God who made the moon and stars through His Son. When we look at the mountains, the rivers, the streams, the clouds, the fish, the birds, the animals, as well as the people of this earth, who should come to our mind? God and His Son should come to our mind, for it was God who made the mountains, the rivers, the streams, the clouds, the fish, the birds, the animals, as well as the people of this earth through His Son. This thought of God doing His work through His Son, even the work of creation, should not be surprising to us in light of what the Scriptures teach.

God always does His work through His Son (John 14:10). And this is something that Christ understood very well. What did Christ tell his disciples in **John 14:10**? “**Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.**” So, what was one of those works that God did through His Son? God did the work of creation through His Son.

So how did God and His Son do the work of creation? Did He and His Son use evolution, did He and His Son just pour some ingredients into a pot and then stirred it? How did they do it? God the Father spoke the “world,” or in other words the “universe,” into existence through His Son (Genesis 1:3, 6-7, 9, 11, 14-15, 20, 24, 26).

We know that it was through speaking, because that is what the Scriptures tell us. What does Genesis 1:3 say? **“Then God said [or in other words God through His Son said], ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”** And what does **Genesis 1:6-7** say? **“Then God said [or in other words God through His Son said], ‘Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the water from the waters.’ (7) God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so.”** What does **Genesis 1:9** say? **“Then God said [or in other words God through His Son said], ‘Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so.’** What does **Genesis 1:11** say? **“Then God said [or in other words God through His Son said], ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them’, and it was so.”** And what does **Genesis 1:14-15** say? **“Then God said [or in other words God through His Son said], ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; (15) and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so.”** But these are not the only references to God speaking (or in other words of God speaking through His Son) in **Genesis 1**. We see other references to God speaking in **verse 20, 24, and 26**.

So how did God and His Son do the work of creation? Did God and His Son use evolution, did He and His Son pour some ingredients into a pot and then stirred it? How did they do it? God the Father spoke the “world,” or in other words the “universe,” into existence through His Son, in a succession of creative acts that had nothing whatsoever to do with evolution.

So is it human nature to be curious about the origin of things? Yes! Would it be therefore natural for people such as us to be curious about the origin of the universe? Yes, of course!

And where will we find our answer? We can look to science believing that they can provide that answer or we can look to the Scriptures. I have personally decided that I will look not look to science and their evolutionary model but rather I have chosen to look to the Scriptures. And I would hope that you have chosen to do this as well.

And what do the Scriptures reveal to us? That God spoke the universe into existence fully mature and complete and He did so through His Son.

So when we look at what is around us, and what is above us, and consider the wonder of it all, who should we see in the midst of that wonder, the wonder of our universe? We should be able to see with the eyes of faith see the greatness and power of God who created the whole of this universe through His Son.

But beyond the wonder of God's creation, there is an even greater wonder, for those who have come to know God in a personal way through faith in His Son. And what is that wonder? What is that wonder of wonders? Because we have His Son by grace through faith, the creator of this universe, the God of this universe loves us in a very personal intimate way.

And I believe this thought has been captured very well in a song written by George Beverly Shea, who died this week at the age of 104. It is entitled "The Wonder of It All." And this is how it goes.

**There is the wonder of sunset at evening, The wonder of sunrise I see;
But the wonders of wonder that thrills my soul Is the wonder that God
loves me. O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think that
God loves me.**

**There is the wonder of springtime and harvest, The sky, the stars, the
sun; But the wonder of wonder that thrills my soul Is a wonder that's
only begun. O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think
that God loves me.**

May God give us the grace to understand that it was God through Christ who
created this universe, and it is through faith in Christ that we have come to
know God and to be loved by God.