

The Universe And You

Poor Charles Darwin, father of modern evolution. He had a terrible time trying to keep God out of his theories. Just thinking about the eye merely evolving, Darwin admitted, was enough to make him ill. And Albert Einstein? He ceased trying to keep God out of his equations after what Einstein called “the biggest blunder of my life”. You don’t want to miss this next half hour. You’ll find it’s “more than talk”

Introduction

Most of our kids have bought into it by the time they enter college. Then in college, they get a double dose. Evolution. So who needs God?! “There are no absolutes”, says a professor with absolute confidence. “Truth is relative”, says another teacher. “You can know nothing for certain. When a student responded, “Teacher, are you sure”, he answered “I’m certain!” Yes, you could have heard a pin drop.

But it’s hard for people who think for themselves to live for long believing there is no purpose to life. It’s even harder to die trying to deny God’s twin voices of conscience and creation. You see, every one of us is a believer – some believe in the God of creation, while others create their own gods – even if it’s themselves. But God is still God, whether we believe or not. And truth is still truth whether we subscribe to it or not.

I’d like you to hang around for the next few minutes. I’m Frank Eiklor and I call this new program “MORE THAN TALK”. We will confront life’s questions with answers, and do it in ways that we hope will leave you feeling like you have experienced more than a volume of words. More than talk!

PREPARING FOR AN AWESOME JOURNEY

If God permits, I want to take you on an incredible journey. We will explain the things that matter most and answer the three questions humans ask in every generation: “Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?”

Today’s secular world has no answers. Greed and debt are burying the “enlightened countries.” Hunger, disease and early death stalk billions living in poorer nations. Violence in the streets. Liars and crooks in seats of power. Utter stupidity and nonsense in the halls of learning. Confused young people committing suicide in record numbers. Judaism with its traditions, Islam with its rules and Christianity with its endless divisions, denominations and doctrinal debates repel more than they attract the masses. But God is not silent. He never has been—and speaks to every generation including ours. And He has constructed His master creation—man himself—in such a way that it is hard to eliminate questions that force their way into our minds.

The universe and the shocking scientific proof that it had a beginning where even Einstein had to admit God bade into his equations.

Man's endless search for "terrestrial life"—and his ultimate disappointment and dissatisfaction in all things material.

The incancellable appointment with death from which men run but can't hide—as the mystery and fear of death often lead many to the only one who conquered death—Jesus Christ.

Then there is the "miracle called you"—body, mind and spirit—that though incomprehensible, still calls you and me to explore and experience our awesome God in all our parts and faculties.

We believe your faith, hope and love will expand as you explore these brief, practical lessons that we will begin with part 2.

THE UNIVERSE AND YOU

(WHAT'S OUT THERE?)

Most people believe there is a God. Then there are atheists who say there is no God. Both groups stop there – just arguing their points of view. They live and die with their opinions – with even the "believers" never experiencing more than their head belief.

Then God Himself goes to work on certain minds and hearts. I was one of them. Facts begin to bombard the head while the pulse quickens at truths that become real.

"Of course there is a God!", I told myself. "My conscience proves it. I can't get away from the law of right and wrong. There is a 'purpose' to life – if there wasn't, no one could say 'there is no purpose'."

So "conscience" convinced me from the inside. Then "creation" overwhelmed me from the outside. The Universe! What's out there? Before the Hubble telescope discoveries of other galaxies, the scientific world believed that our Milky Way was the only galaxy and that it was the whole universe. Moreover, scientists said there was no end or beginning to the universe – that's how they avoided any "In the beginning, God created..." discussion. No sir, they repeated with certainty, the universe was static. It had no beginning. It would have no end. There was no need for God. End of conversation.

Until "Hubble" spelled "trouble" and blew their "static universe" to infinity. Peering into the Mount Wilson Observatory's most powerful telescope, astronomer Edwin Hubble not only discovered galaxies beyond our own but also saw that space itself was expanding while distant galaxies were retreating from us at astonishing speed. There had to be a beginning. And the universe was expanding toward an end! Science was turned on its head.

But don't be too hard on the poor scientists for thinking that our galaxy was the only one – instead of one of perhaps billions or trillions of not just stars but other galaxies. Their great but limited minds could not – and can not – comprehend our own galaxy. Our Milky Way alone composed of over 200,000 million stars? The sun 1,300,000 times bigger than earth! At 93 million miles away, a plane flying 1,000 miles an hour, taking more than ten years to reach the sun? And the sun's interior heat of 15 million degrees centigrade able to melt 240 million cubic miles of ice per second.

And Sirius, the closest star visible in the Northern Hemisphere is 40 times brighter and 7 times bigger than the sun. A space craft travelling at 17,000 miles an hour would take 318,000 years to reach Sirius. I'm serious! The Milky Way itself is 150,000 light years across. One light year equals six trillion miles (that's 6 million, million miles) because light at 186,000 miles a second (7 times around the earth in one second!). Whew! What a Creator!

Just one more "WOW" about our massive Creator God who is "from everlasting to everlasting". (Psalm 106:48)

The North Star is a million times the size of the sun and 400 light years away (remember, one light year equals 6 million, million miles). Man's best speed is 5 miles per second to escape the gravitational pull of earth. Not bad. But "God speed"? In just one second – 186,000 miles!

But God wants you and me to know He does more than hold the universe in His hand. He holds us in His heart and wants us to know Him – really know Him. That's why Jesus Christ, Creator of it all, walked on this earth. His purpose was to come perhaps to the darkest part of the universe – the human heart – and utter again those glorious words, "Let there be light!" More on that in part 3.

THE UNIVERSE AND YOU

(HOW DID IT GET THERE?)

I love to go to observatories where men and women study the heavens in awe and wonder. Incredible photos attempt to describe the indescribable—to comprehend the incomprehensible. We wrote of some of those discoveries in the previous lesson. A universe that equals billions of stars in countless galaxies. We live in just one, the Milky Way, where our solar system is an insignificant part and our earth a grain of sand by comparison.

And that is just one galaxy. There may be billions—trillions—more, not just stars, but entire galaxies? And remember, it would take you and me 150,000 years to just cross our galaxy at the speed of light—186,000 miles a second! Visit an observatory and you will see science humbled as astronomers describe the size of the universe with one word: "UNKNOWN".

But God is not unknown. He has been explored and experienced through Jesus Christ by millions of people. He delights in telling us how the universe, galaxies, stars, solar system, earth and you and me got here. He placed the answers in the eternal Scriptures—the Bible—that will outlast the universe.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” There could be no better way to introduce Himself to mankind than with Genesis 1:1. Then we learn in John 1:1-3 that the One who visited this planet to redeem His broken creatures is the same one who spoke the universe into being. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

Wow! So unlike the false and invented gods who are always pictured as part of the universe, the true and living God is outside of it. The vast universe is only like a particle of dust before God in His greatness.

How did it all get here? The same God who first spoke through the Hebrew prophets “has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, BY WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS.” (Hebrews 1:2) And again, “...the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”. (Hebrews 11:3)

And Isaiah? He must have been terrified—awestruck—as he heard God speak of “the circle of the earth” (2700 years ago, which our “flat earth” ancestors refused to believe until faced with scientific fact) and how our Creator calls each star by name and guides them in their orbits. No wonder He asked Israel—and asks us today—“To whom then will you liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.” (Read Isaiah chapter 40—it’s incredible!)

How did it all begin? I heard the story of how the greatest and wisest men climbed the mountain of knowledge, determined to learn the answers to the origin of the universe and the mystery of how life began. When, exhausted, they finally arrived at the top, they found a humble theologian sitting there relaxed and reading a book. He had been there all along—and the Book was open at Genesis chapter one!

THE UNIVERSE AND YOU

(EINSTEIN'S BIGGEST BLUNDER)

Ask the average American, "Who was the most brilliant man that ever lived?" and you usually get the answer "Albert Einstein". But few realize that this man with the amazing brain admitted to "the biggest blunder of my life".

It went like this. At the beginning of the 20th century, many scientists said that the Genesis account of creation was only a religious story. They said that the universe had no beginning and would have no end. It was called the "static theory", and it let the big brains of the day teach that there was no need of God.

Einstein knew better. His brilliant life work about the laws that governed the universe spoke of expansion that required a beginning. Other scientists took Einstein's equations and proved that the universe was indeed expanding. It had to have a beginning—and it was coming to an end.

However, to have a beginning, there had to be a cause. This sounded too much like "God", so many scientists refused to accept the truth. Not wanting to rock the boat, Einstein revised his equations to please the scientific crowd. But the conspiracy to lock God out of His universe began to fall apart in 1923 with Elwin Hubble's discovery of galaxies beyond our own. In the next six years the findings could not be buried. Distant galaxies were retreating from us at incredible speed, space itself was moving and our universe was expanding. That meant that our universe had begun at a specific moment in time (sounds like Genesis to me!).

Einstein finally admitted that in trying to agree with false science, he had made "the biggest blunder of my life". From then on he took his stand and spoke of the "necessity of a beginning". He even wrote of wanting "to know how God created the world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thought; the rest are details."

What a God we serve. So big that the universe must be like a grain of sand to the One who told Moses "I Am that I Am". And just as He spoke it all into existence, so we read in the Scriptures: "You, Lord, in the beginning have laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of your hands: They shall perish; but You remain; and they all shall wax old as does a garment; And as a vesture shall You fold them up, and they shall be changed: but You are the same, and Your years shall not fail." (Hebrews 1:10-12)

So young soldiers of Jesus Christ, never fear to stand up for the truth (as Einstein once was). You serve the awesome God who says, "I will baffle and render useless and destroy the learning of the learned and the philosophy of the philosophers and the cleverness of the clever...Has not God shown up the nonsense and the folly of this world's wisdom? (1 Corinthians 1:19, 20 Amplified Bible). In part 5—the incredible blind faith it takes to be an atheist.

THE UNIVERSE AND YOU

(THE INCREDIBLE FAITH OF THE ATHEIST)

One day, I hope to offer a biblical study of the word “fool”. The rich Spanish language offers different words to express a “fool”. The word “necio” is one the worst. Jesus warned us never to denigrate a fellow human being as a “necio”—fool. He Himself used it very seldom, like when He called a man a “fool” (“necio”) for selfishly storing up his material wealth while saying he would have many years to enjoy a pampered life. (He died that night). Luke 12:15-21

In the Old Testament, God used the word “fool” (“necio”) twice to describe the confirmed atheist (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). “The fool has said in His heart, There is no God”. Most of us have struggled from time to time where our minds have doubted if God exists. Yet in our hearts, we knew He did. But the one God labels a “fool” is not battling a doubt. He has already made up his mind—and speaks arrogantly from his heart that there is no God. “Case closed!” “Argument ended!” “Take your evidence for God’s existence somewhere else. I don’t want it!” “I don’t live by that faith nonsense!”

But that’s not true. The confirmed atheist must have incredible faith to deny the existence of God. Christian author Lee Strobel was an atheist. Why did he turn to God. “To stay an atheist I have to believe nothing produces everything; non-life produces life; randomness produces fine-tuning; chaos produces information; unconsciousness produces consciousness; and non-reason produces reason. These leaps of faith were too big for me to take.” So an atheist’s faith must deny countless evidences that stare him in the face; while the believer bases his faith on convictions built on solid evidence.

Take poor Charles Darwin, father of modern evolution. He had a terrible time trying to keep God out of his theories. He admitted in his writings that just thinking about the eye merely evolving was enough to make him ill. “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.” (Darwin—“Origin of Species, 1909 Harvard Classics edition, page 190). And that was just the eye! What about the brain? Heart? Lungs? The circulatory system?

So you and I look at the heavens and stand in awe of the glory of God. We look at the earth and see His handiwork (Psalm 19:1). We look in the mirror and say with the Psalmist, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). And the silent message that comes to our eyes—the gentle voice we hear in our hearts—is from God who will never cease saying “I love you, I love you!”

So the next time anyone tries to convince you of his “no God”, “no purpose”, “evolution is my god” nonsense, tell him that he has a religion that requires too much blind faith. Challenge him to see why your faith in Jesus Christ and in the Scriptures comes from convictions based on solid evidence. And let your life of integrity, purity, humility and love be a visible testimony to any unbeliever of how faith in God has changed you for the better.

WRAP UP

And so ends our visit today. We hope to inspire you with future times together. I hope you'll find us "MORE THAN TALK" as we tackle life's questions with answers that stand the test of time. Tell your friends about this new half hour drama and documentary. And stand by to meet all kinds of characters and events that can only help open your eyes and mine to what real life is all about. I'm Frank Eiklor. Until we meet again, may God show you how real He is – and just how much He loves you!