

References, Quotes and Readings – Graham’s Sessions

Session 1: The Science Delusion

Session 2: First Light

Session 3: Why is the Universe bio-friendly?

Bible references:

Romans 1:20

Psalm 8:3,4

Isaiah 55:8,9

Quotes:

“Whence arises all that order and beauty we see in the world?”

Isaac Newton (1643-1727)

(the delight of scientific enquiry allows us to ...) “think God’s thoughts after Him”

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) (theoretician)

“The most incomprehensible thing about the world (Universe) is that it is comprehensible”

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

“We are not reading rationality into an irrational universe but responding to a rationality with which the universe has always been saturated”

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) (taken from ‘Christian Reflections’)

“The best data we have concerning the Big Bang are exactly what I would have predicted, had I nothing but the five books of Moses, the Psalms, the Bible as a whole”

Arno Penzias (astrophysicist and Nobel laureate)

“Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the right conditions required for life, and one which has an underlying, one might say ‘supernatural’, plan”

Arno Penzias (astrophysicist and Nobel laureate)

“I cannot believe that our existence in this universe is a mere quirk of fate, an accident of history, an incidental blip in the great cosmic drama. Our involvement is too intimate ... We are truly meant to be here”

Paul Davies (theoretical physicist)

“A commonsense interpretation of the facts is that a super-intellect has monkeyed with the physics”

Fred Hoyle (atheist scientist and mathematician)

“The more I examine the universe and the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known we were coming”

Freeman Dyson (theoretical physicist)

“The imagination of Nature is far, far greater than the imagination of man”

Richard Feynman (physicist and Nobel laureate)

“Science is not threatened by God; it is enhanced. God is certainly not threatened by science; He made it all possible.”

Francis Collins (Head of US Human Genome Project)

“We have already discussed one piece of evidence ...: the apparently improbable values of the masses of the elementary particles and the strengths of the fundamental forces. One can estimate the probability that the constants in our standard theories of the elementary particles and cosmology

would, were they chosen randomly, lead to a world with carbon chemistry. That probability is less than one part in 10^{220} .”

Lee Smolin (physicist and author)

“If any one of forty physical constants had more than slightly different values, life as we know it would not exist.” *Stephen Hawking* (physicist and author)

Notes and readings:

For more information on the ‘Fine-tuning’ argument, see:

God: New Evidence – 6 short videos on www.focus.org.uk (or UTube)

“However, if we do discover a complete theory, it should in time be understandable in broad principle by everyone, not just a few scientists. Then we shall all, philosophers, scientists and just ordinary people, be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the Universe exist. If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason – for then we would know the mind of God”

Reading from *Stephen Hawking*: ‘A brief history of time’, Bantam, 1988

“Now all true scientists are aware, of course, that science is not infallible: theories change Most scientists, though, are critical realists. They believe that they are making steps towards grasping the truth about the universe, but they are prepared to modify their theories if the evidence warrants it. We Christians need to remind ourselves of ... two dangers Firstly, we must beware of tying our exposition of Scripture so close to science that the former falls if the latter changes. On the other hand, we would be very unwise to ignore science through obscurantism or fear, and present to the world an image of Christianity that is anti-intellectual. No Christian has anything to fear from true science. Many Christians have made, and continue to make, first-rate contributions to science”

Reading from *John Lennox*: ‘Seven days that divide the world’, Zondervan, 2011

“The astronomer who charts the stars, the geneticist who maps the human genome, the researcher who seeks to cure Parkinson’s disease, the oceanographer who explores the barrier reef, the ornithologist who studies and preserves rare bird species, the physicist who tries to catch quarks ... and the theologian who studies God have one thing in common. All of them are explorers. They are fulfilling the Genesis commission. And their exploration honours God if it’s done for the right reasons and results in the right response: to know Him and worship Him.”

Reading from *Mark Batterson*: ‘Primal’, Doubleday Publishing, 2009

“How has this come about? How have human beings become privy to nature’s subtle and elegant scheme? Somehow the Universe has engineered, not just its own awareness, but its own *comprehension*. Mindless, blundering atoms have conspired to spawn beings who are able not merely to watch the show, but to unravel the plot, to engage with the totality of the cosmos and the silent mathematical tune to which it dances.”

Reading from *Paul Davies*: ‘What’s eating the Universe?’, Penguin Books, 2021