

*Faith in the God who
made something from
nothing*

21st Jan, 2018

Hertford Baptist Church

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

*Look at the
stars!*

Brian Edward Cox OBE, FRS
(born 3 March 1968).
Professor of particle physics
at the School of Physics and
Astronomy, University of
Manchester.



Some facts

- Light travels @ 300,000km/sec
- Light year = 9,500,000,000,000km
- Nearest star = 4.5 light years =
42.75 trillion km

Some more facts

- Our solar system = Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, etc.
- 100-200 billion stars and probably solar systems in our galaxy
- Possibly 2,000,000,000,000 galaxies in known universe

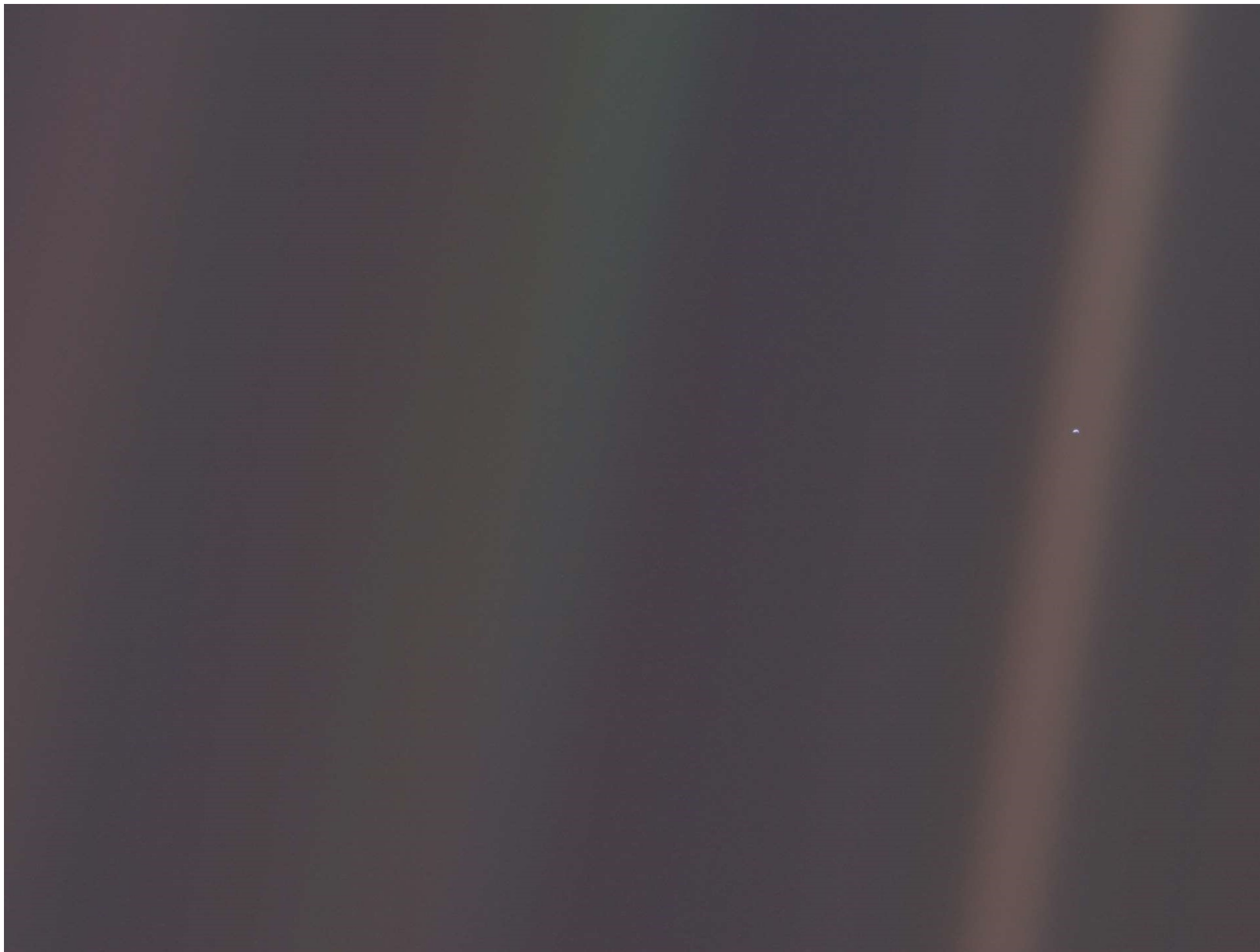












Do you feel small yet?

Psalm 8:1

LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all
the earth!

You have set your glory
in the heavens.

Psalm 8:3-4

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful
of them,
human beings that you care for
them?



Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

You can't get something from nothing!

Important question

What does it mean to believe in this
God who brings something from
nothing?

Genesis 1:1-2:4

Competing Worldviews

Ancient creation stories

Enuma Elish



Marduk kills Tiamat, the Dragon, and divides her body to make the sky and the earth. He creates humanity from the blood of Tiamat's husband (Kingu) in order that humanity serve the gods.

Contemporary creation stories

Gravity Theory

"Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing.

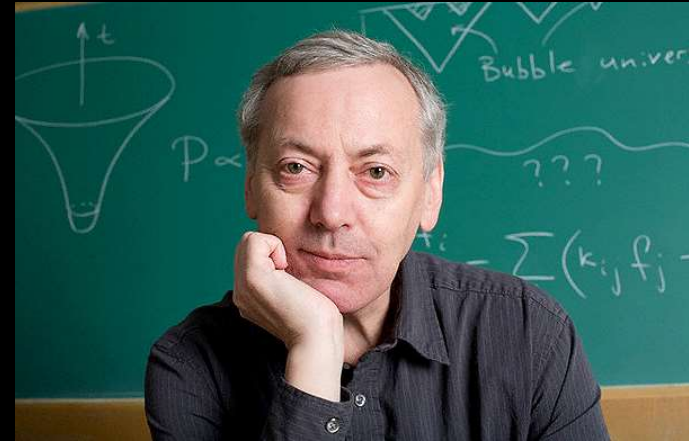
"Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist."



Prof Stephen Hawking

Multiverse Theory

This picture of the universe, or *multiverse*, as it is called, explains the long-standing mystery of why the constants of nature appear to be fine-tuned for the emergence of life.



Alexander Vilenkin

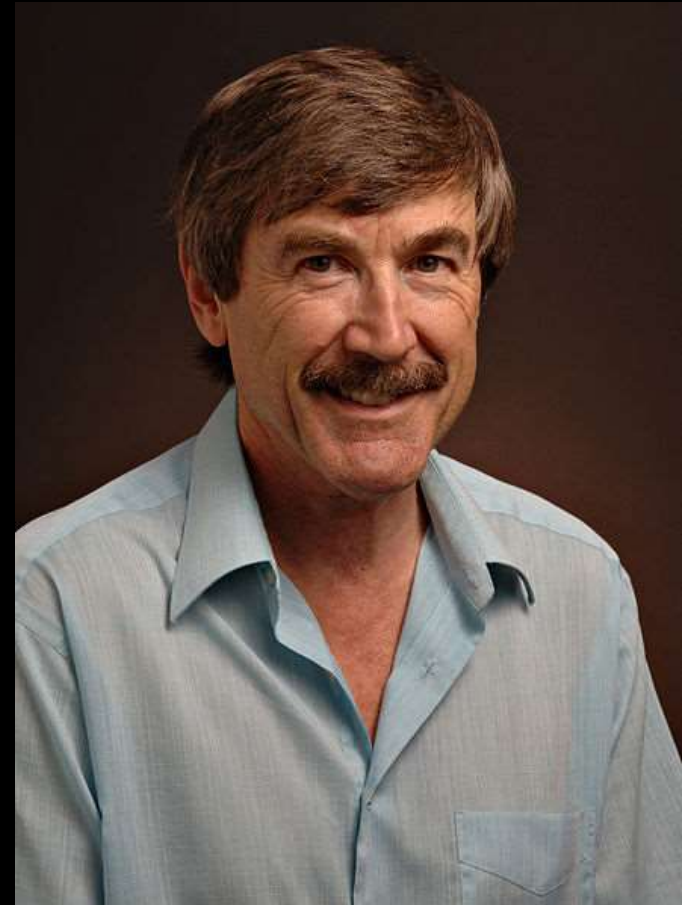


Max Tegmark

A Measured Response

It does not make sense to invoke an infinite number of unseen universes to explain the unusual features of the one we do see

Prof Paul Davies (not me!)



A More Derisive Response

“Nonsense
remains
nonsense, even
when talked by
world-famous
scientists.”

Prof John Lennox



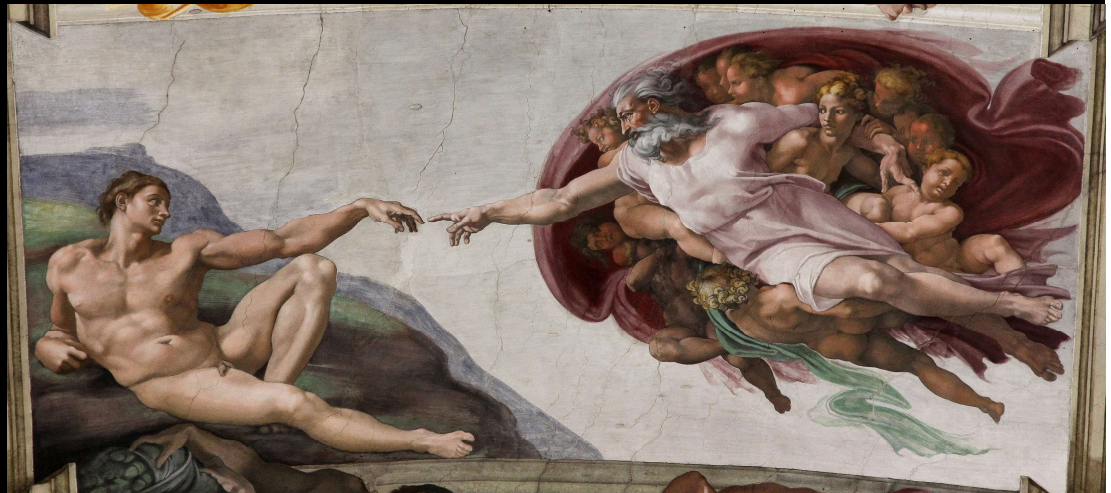
Contextual Background of Genesis 1

In the light of the creation stories of
the nations, how is Israel's God
different?

A different God

God is the one
and only, non-
created God,
who is
independent of
creation

God creates
“good”



A different God

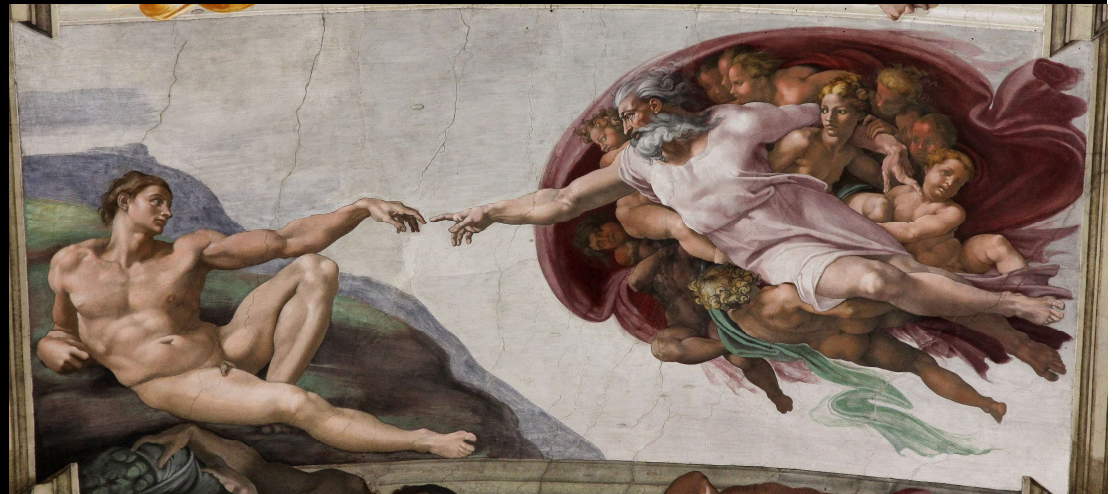
No deification
of natural
world (lesser
and greater
lights, he also
made the
stars)



A different God

God creates the
divine image to
be born by
human beings

God serves
humanity not
vice versa



So?

- God created the natural world
- The natural world is under God's control
- God is free
- God created sexuality and it is good
- God is a loving and serving God

Application

- There is no other God who deserves worship – let us worship Him alone
- God is in control, even when it doesn't seem so – let us trust in Him
- God invites us to take part in his creation – let us cultivate and sustain creation