

Series: God Who Creates – Acts 17:22-34

I believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth...



“Acropolis in Athens” by Leo von Klenze 1846, Paul stands in the
sunlight on the Areopagus indicating the dawn of Christianity

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

Philosophers and Theologians in the Middle ages accepted Aristotle’s 2 basic ideas about the universe. First **the Unmoved Mover** concept which during the Middle Ages became the **Cosmological Argument** for the existence of God. Second, they accepted the concept of **an eternal universe**.



William Lane Craig, Christian Philosopher. He has reinvigorated the Cosmological argument called the Kalam Argument

Aug. 13, 2023

Garrison Church of God

Acts 17:24-25 [ESV]

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

Paul in Acts 17:24-25 share 3 concepts about God as Creator:

1. God created everything by His power.
2. God is in control and active in His creation.
3. God is self-existent and does not depend on his creation.



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“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

One of the common methods of human argument is to present both sides of the argument. We use the phrase “On the one hand...then on the other...”

For Paul God answered both parts of the equation. He established order and purpose in His creation.



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Jeremiah 10:10-13 [ESV]

10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. 11 Thus shall you say to them: "The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." 12 It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. 13 When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

The Kalam Argument is as follows:

Primas 1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

Primas 2. The universe began to exist.

Primas 3. Therefore, the universe has a cause.



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“On the One Hand or on the Other”

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Hemispheres

Left hemisphere:

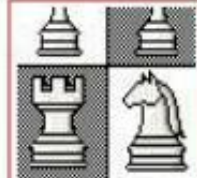
Right hemisphere:



Written language

12345
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Number skills



Reasoning



Spoken language



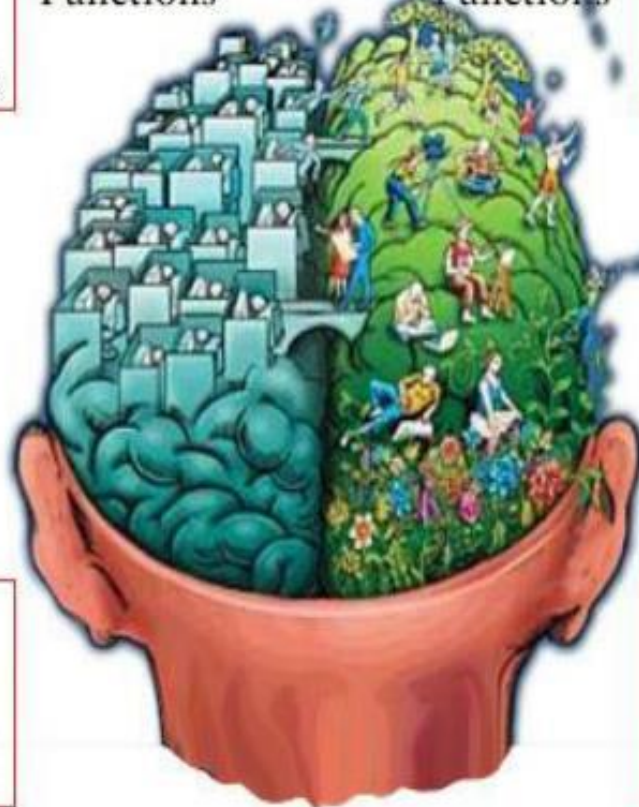
Scientific skills



Right-hand control

Left Brain Functions

Right Brain Functions



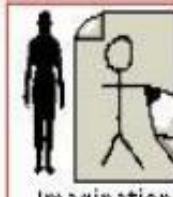
Insight



3-D forms



Art awareness



Imagination



Left-hand control



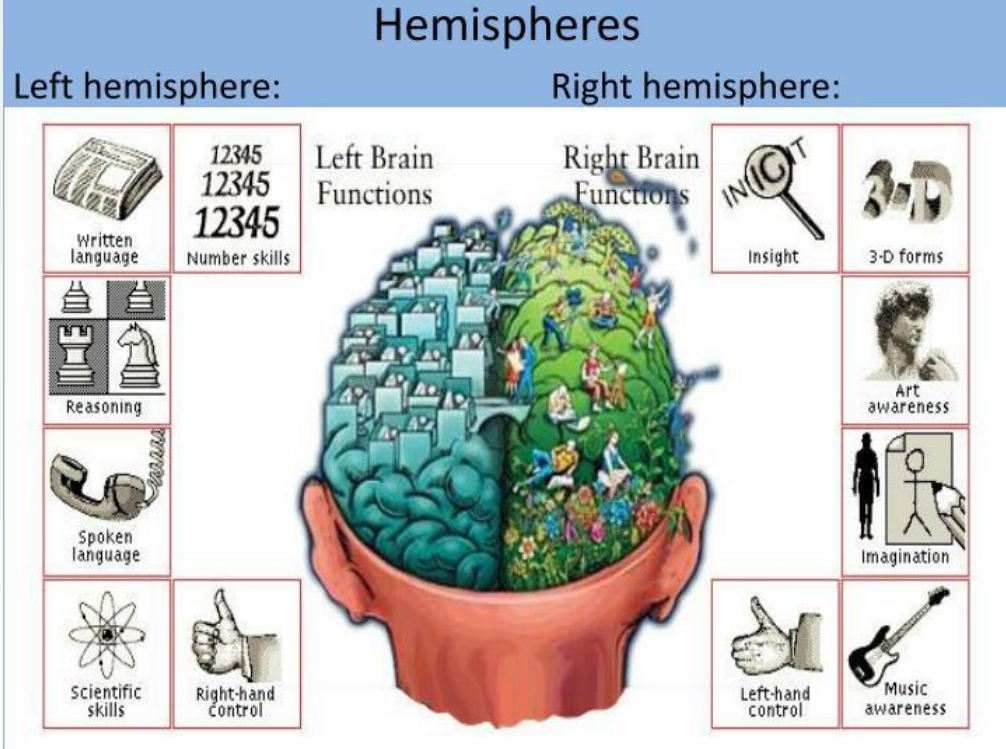
Music awareness

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

Being made in the image of God we have both an orderly logical process of thought and a intuitive creative side of thought. Both work together in our imagination.

Our ability to think logically and create is an interchange between the two halves of our brain. The left half of our brain is linear, logical, mathematical and structured. In this hemisphere of the brain resides our reasoning, language and writing skills. The right half of the brain is creative, insightful, relational. In this hemisphere resides our imaginative skills, our insight, and our memory for faces.



Genesis 1:31 [ESV]

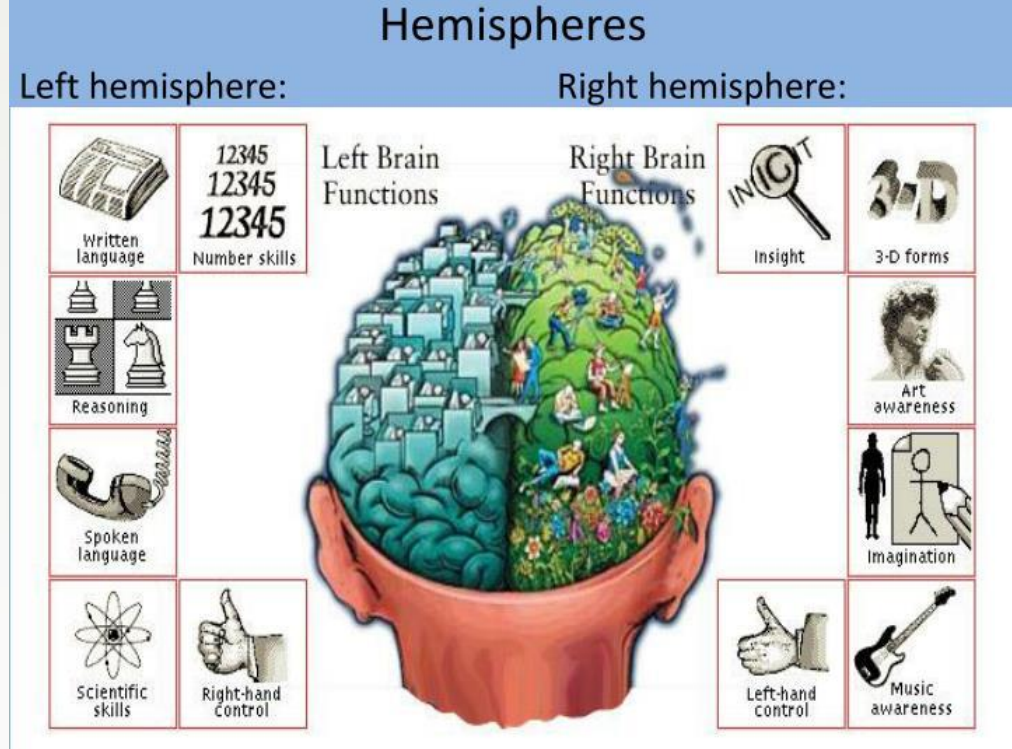
31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

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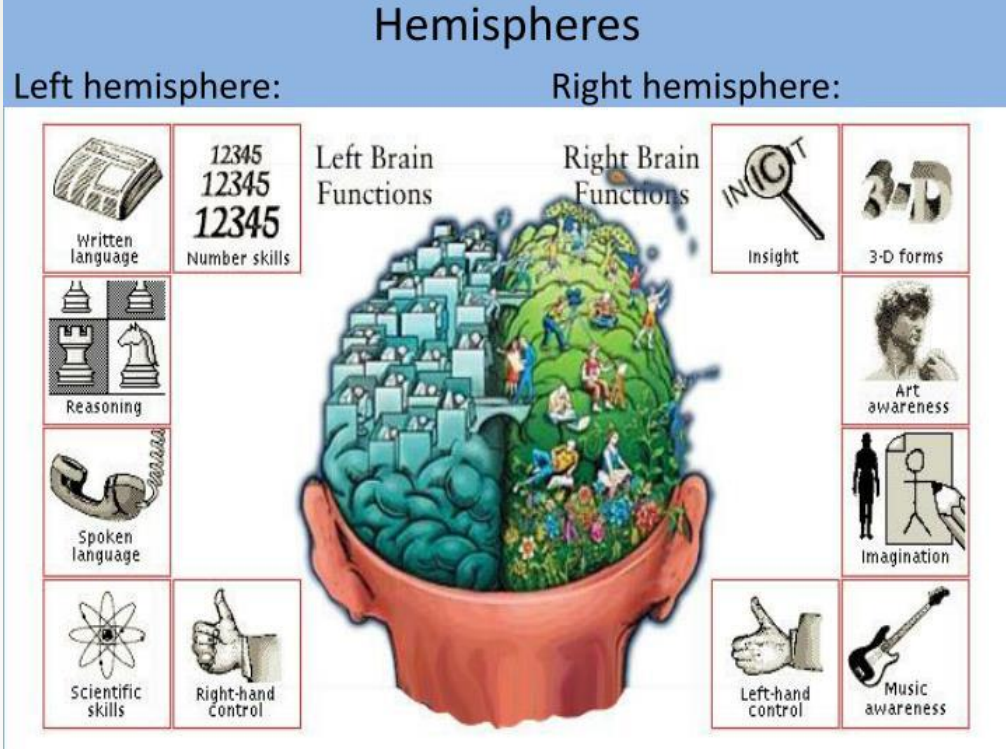
In another strange twist of biology, the right half of our brain controls the motor functions and sensations on the left side of our bodies and visa a versa. Because of this, there developed a myth that left handed people were more creative while right handed people were more logical. This myth has generally been debunked.



“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

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Paul in speaking to the Athenians was fully aware of the philosophical traditions that made up the Hellenistic culture of his day. There were philosophers who denied spiritual existence or any deity at all. There were others who believed in a separate Creator deity who was basically detached from the creation. And there were philosophers who viewed god/s as the spirit of the Universe and humans as a reflection.

Psalm 102:25-28 [ESV]

25 Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

26 They will perish, but you will remain; they
will all wear out like a garment. You will change
them like a robe, and they will pass away,

27 but you are the same, and your years have
no end.

28 The children of your servants shall dwell
secure; their offspring shall be established
before you.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 &
Genesis 3:22-23

Granville Sewell is a mathematician who works on Physics problems. He teaches at the University of Texas, El Paso.



From article in Evolution News & Science Today by Granville Sewell Oct. 28, 2020

“Top Six Evidences For Intelligent Design”

1. **The Fine Tuning of Conditions on Earth for life.** *(This is called the “Goldilocks” condition – just right. Usual answer – “How else would it be?”)*

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“Top Six Evidences For Intelligent Design”

2. The Fine-Tuning of the physical laws of our universe not only for life but for scientific discovery and technology development.

(The laws of our universe present only a small window for the preservation and development of physical life. Our planet is in the precise spot in the universe to allow the best observation of the universe. The materials of our universe are uniquely suited for technology. Usual answer – “How else would it be?”)

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“Top Six Evidences For Intelligent Design”

3. The Origin of Life. *(We still have not been able to develop any kind of self-replicating machine that can even do what a simple cell organism is capable of, let alone a higher organism. Such complexity of information could not arise out of random material processes. Research into DNA has made this evidence almost impossible to refute.)*

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“Top Six Evidences For Intelligent Design”

4. The Evolution of Humans. *(Naturalistic evolution can't explain the development of intelligent life. Usual answer – “It happened, so what?”)*

5. The Origin of Human Consciousness. *(Personal awareness and moral awareness can't be explained through material or chemical processes even if life and intelligence can. Usual answer – Helps develop communal survival.)*

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“Top Six Evidences For Intelligent Design”

6. The Beginning of Time. *(The Big Bang Theory postulates that time and space had a beginning, as such something or someone had to begin them. This is the Ontological Argument. Present answer – In a multi-verse anything is possible. [a faith statement, not a scientific observation])*

Genesis 3:22-23 [ESV]

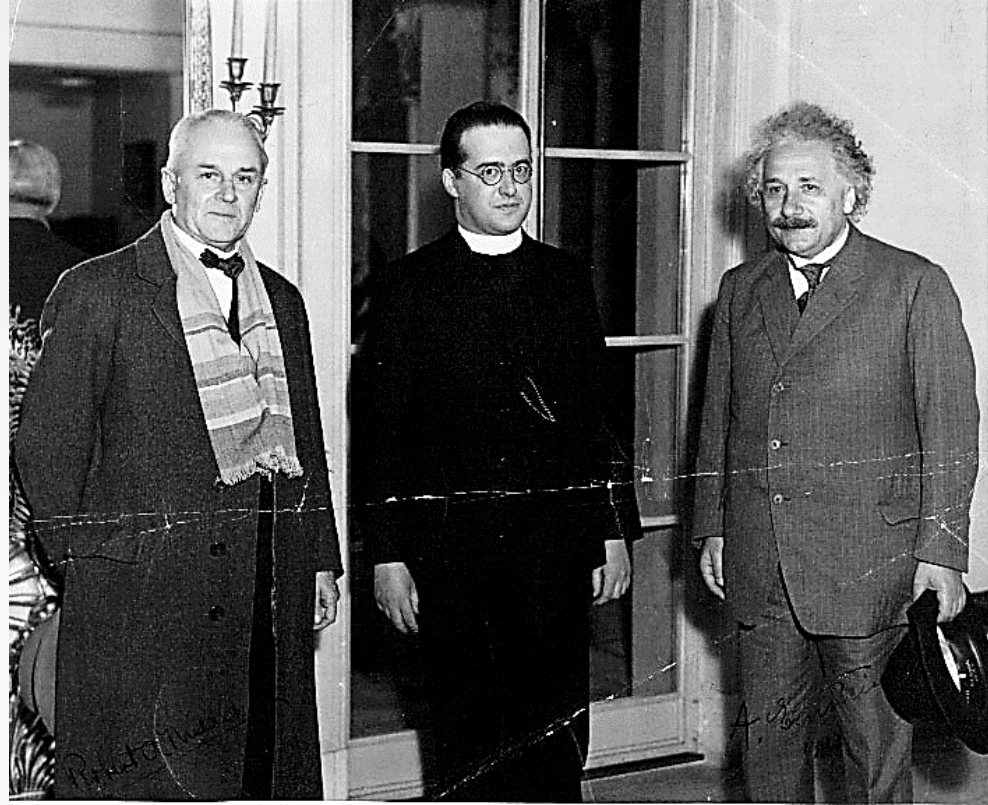
22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever — "

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 &
Genesis 3:22-23

Priest and Scientist Georges
Lemaître (center) with physicists
Robert Millikan (1923 Nobel Prize)
and Albert Einstein, 1933 California
Technical Institute.

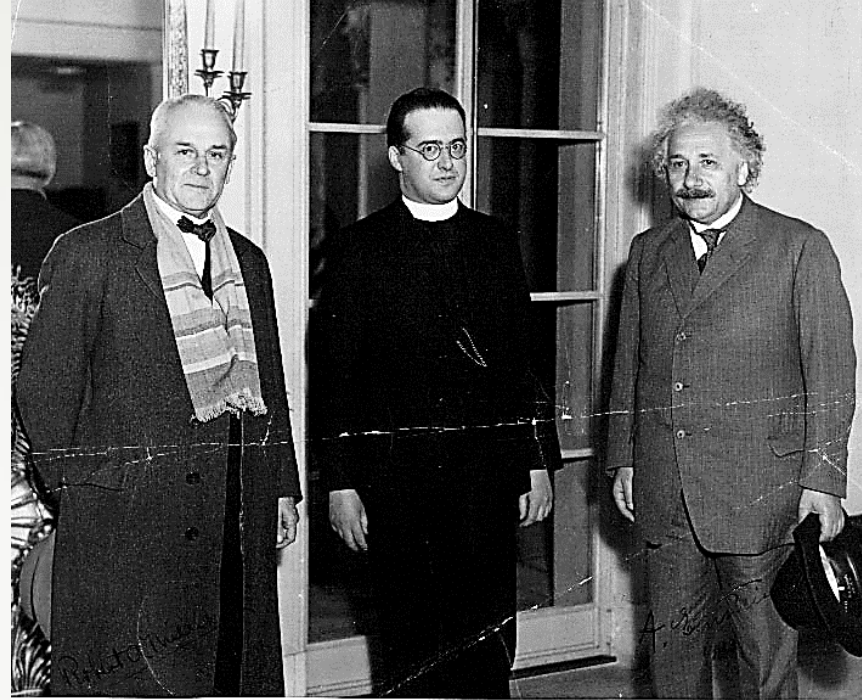


It is my personal belief that this “right-brain” or creative capability of humans is what separates us from the angels. I believe it is part of what it means to be made in the image of God. We are capable of imagining what is not and finding a way to create it.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 &
Genesis 3:22-23

Priest and Scientist Georges Lemaitre
(center) with physicists Robert Millikan
(1923 Nobel Prize) and Albert Einstein,
1933 California Technical Institute.



I find nowhere in scripture where angels are capable of this. That is why God’s statement in Genesis 3:22-23 not only informs us of the existence of the Trinity but explains why God is concerned with humanity’s new found knowledge of good and evil and their potential to grasp of eternal life.

Isaiah 40:27-29 [ESV]

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

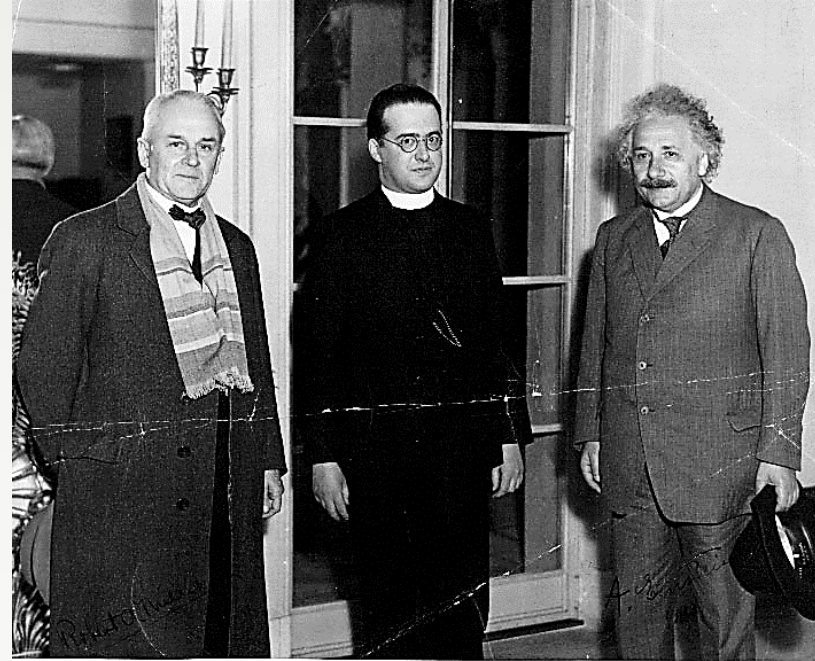
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis
3:22-23

Priest and Scientist Georges Lemaitre
(center) with physicists Robert Millikan
(1923 Nobel Prize) and Albert Einstein, 1933
California Technical Institute.

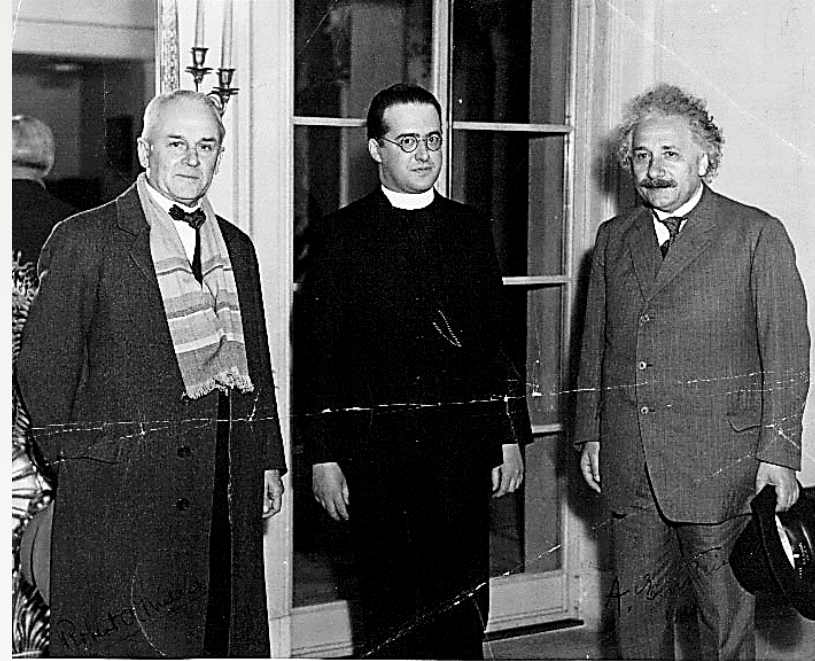


Prior to 1927 the Cosmological argument for the existence of God was roundly rejected by science. The belief of scientists from the middle ages was that of a steady state eternal universe. During the Enlightenment Aristotle’s concept of the eternal stable universe was used to deny the existence of God by postulating that God was either uninvolved in the universe or did not exist because of randomness, suffering and evil.

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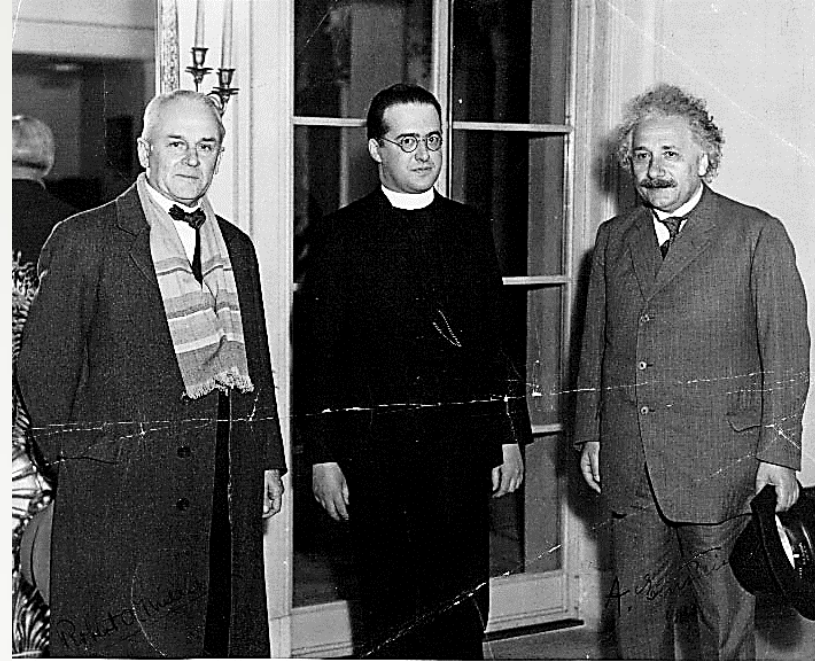
Albert Einstein in 1922 had challenged the scientific world with the Theory of Relativity. This changed the understanding of physical forces in the universe. Einstein however in spite of this maintained the concept of a steady state universe from the Enlightenment period.

In 1924 Edwin Hubble postulated the existence of galaxies due to the “red shift” of their observed movement.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis
3:22-23

Priest and Scientist Georges Lemaître (center) with physicists Robert Millikan (1923 Nobel Prize) and Albert Einstein, 1933 California Technical Institute.

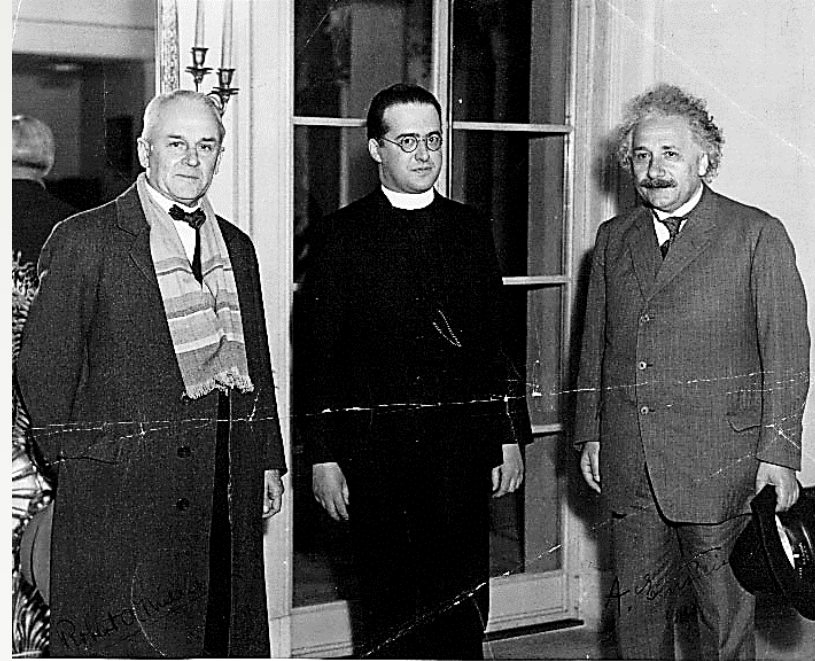


A little known Belgian mathematician and scientist, Georges Lemaître, made a stunning conjecture in 1927 based on Einstein’s observations about relativism in physics and Hubble’s observations in astronomy. First, he proposed based on Einstein’s formula that a “steady state universe” could not exist. Second, he made preliminary calculations on which Hubble built to develop what is now called Hubbel’s Law in 1929. This is the basis of distance calculation in astronomy.

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3:22-23

Priest and Scientist Georges Lemaître (center)
with physicists Robert Millikan (1923 Nobel
Prize) and Albert Einstein, 1933 California
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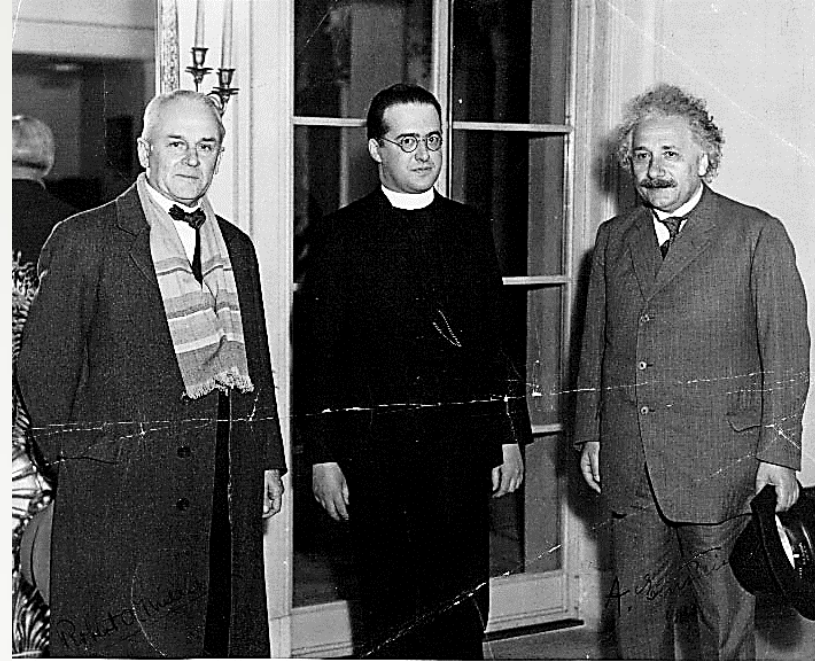


Both Hubble and Einstein rejected Lemaître’s conclusion. He postulated that the universe was moving apart at an accelerated rate which means that at one point it was a single entity that exploded outward. The issue was hotly debated in science during the 1930s and almost universally ridiculed by the scientific hierarchy. Their problem was that his math was unassailable.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

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3:22-23

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Even into the 1940s science writers ridiculed his observations as an attempt the “smuggle” religion into science. In 1949 on a BBC broadcast the astronomer Fred Hoyle, who held to a “steady state universe” pejoratively called Lemaitre’s theory “The Big Bang Theory”. The label stuck, and at first was used as a means to mock Lemaitre’s theory and his faith (he was a Roman Catholic priest).

By the 1970s most scientists had to grudgingly admit that indeed Lemaitre had been right the universe had a beginning

Psalm 111:6-9 [ESV]

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

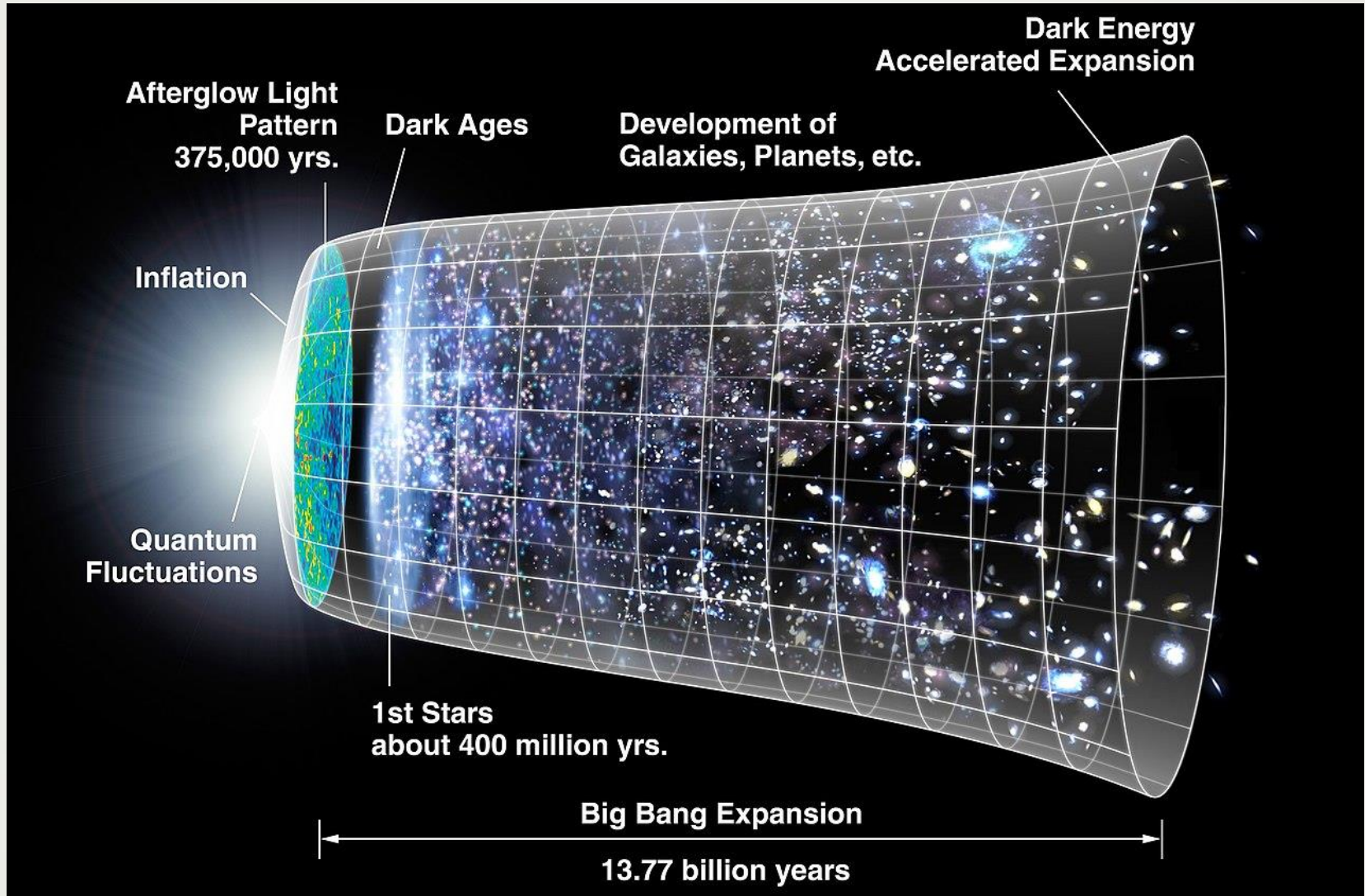
7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

8 they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

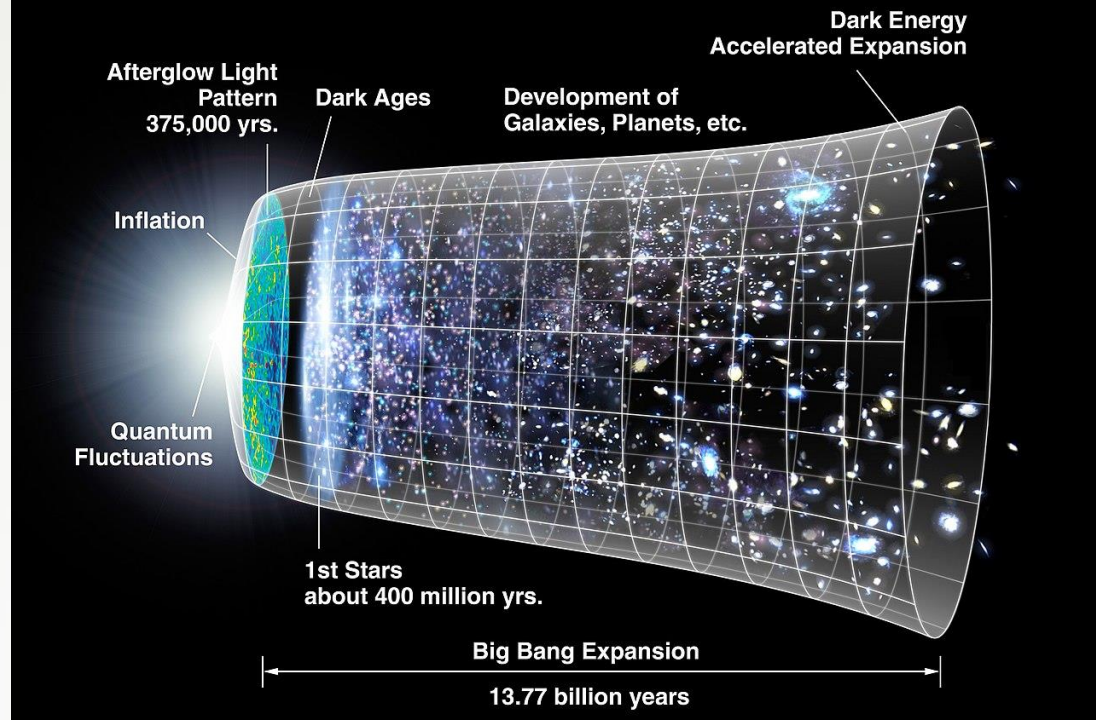


This is the modern conception of what scientists now believe.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

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Genesis 3:22-23

Priest and Scientist Georges
Lemaitre (center) with physicists
Robert Millikan (1923 Nobel Prize)
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By the 1970s most scientists grudgingly admitted that indeed Lemaitre had been right, the universe had a beginning at a single point. This reality brought back the Cosmological argument for the existence of a Creator. Scientific discoveries since then have affirmed these conclusions.

Isaiah 45:18-19 [ESV]

18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

19 I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain.' I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.

“On the One Hand or on the Other”

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Stephen C. Meyer, Ph.D. in the philosophy of science from the University of Cambridge, geophysicist and college professor, he directs Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture in Seattle.

Stephen Meyer's study of DNA connected with his interest in Computer language. What he discovered from the scientific literature on DNA was that it functioned more like a computer code than a chemical process. He states that such a sophisticated code in the cells of all living creatures indicated an Intelligence and not random forces.



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God in driving humans from the garden and not allowing them to live eternally with sinful imaginations that would fester and corrupt forever allowed Him to redeem humanity through Jesus Christ.

Jesus overcame sin and the imagination of evil on the cross and provided our salvation.



“On the One Hand or on the Other”

Jeremiah 10:10-13 & Genesis 3:22-23

God made his creation with order and purpose, even in the seeming random events. He expects us to keep that order and fulfill His purpose.

“Acropolis in Athens” by Leo von Klenze 1846, Paul stands in the sunlight on the Areopagus indicating the dawn of Christianity