



Discussion Questions

THE RETURN OF THE GOD HYPOTHESIS

by Stephen C. Meyer

Chapter 5: The Big Bang Theory

1. “Einstein’s choice of the value for the cosmological constant had no physical justification. Instead, it followed from his assumption of an eternal, steady state universe – an assumption he favored for explicitly philosophical reasons.” (p. 91)
 - Does this surprise you, or raise any questions about how you might have viewed the objectivity of scientists?
2. Unlike Einstein who followed the evidence where it led and changed his position on a static universe, Fred Hoyle’s ideology drove him to adamantly cling to his “steady-state” model over against what he had derisively called the “big bang,” until his death in 2001.
 - How does the way these two scientists handled new information help you think about approaching skeptics with scientific evidence for creation? Does it make you think about how we as believers receive and assess scientific information?
3. Many of the scientists found the metaphysical implications of a big bang theory troubling, so they leaned into alternative theories.
 - As biblical creationists, what current scientific developments in the world today (in any area of science) do we find the most metaphysically troubling? In general, does it seem like we are measured or knee-jerk in responding to those things?
4. How did Robert Jastrow’s quote on p. 110 impact you when you read it?

Chapter 6: The Curvature of Space and the Beginning of the Universe

5. Before reading these chapters, had you learned much about any of these scientists we are reading about and their contributions? Who taught you about them?
6. How would you describe Steven Hawking, Roger Penrose, and George Ellis’s “Singularity” theorem to a 9th grader? And why, according to Paul Davies (pp. 116-117) does this theorem point to God?

7. In the 1980s, Inflationary Models arose which seems to be the beginning of the “multi-verse” ideas. But, in the 1990s, Arvind Borde and Alexander Vilenkin and later Alan Guth took this popular new idea, asked what it meant about the beginning of the universe, and proposed the “BGV Theorem.”
 - Why does the BGV Theorem conclude that a cosmic beginning is almost unavoidable if we live in an expanding universe? (p. 128)

Additional, time permitting:

8. Do you know of any inspiring scientists today who speak up for theistic evidence that we should know about?