

Five Things Theologians Need to Know about Cosmology

Cosmology is the science of how the universe came about and has been evolving over time. As the Bible is not silent about the origin of the cosmos, there is a need for comparing the statements that are made in cosmology and in theology about the origin of the universe. What does cosmology say? Where can we see convergences between the bible and scientific data? What are limits of cosmological research? What is the role of naturalistic worldview presuppositions?

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A. Introduction

1. Understanding the cosmos as a *conditio humana*

B. The immense Dimensions of Space

1. from meters to billions of light years
2. from earth to solar system to galaxy to galaxy clusters to superclusters

C. The unimaginable History of Time

1. the battle of beginning: has the universe started or has it been here forever?
2. the Big bang model: from Planck time to formation of matter and generations of stars

D. The incomprehensible Comprehensiveness of the Universe

1. how the universe favors us to discover it
2. why the universe loves mathematicians and vice versa

E. The improbable Fine-Tuning of the Universe and Earth for the Existence of Life

1. a physical furniture and a universe made for life
2. a solar system and a planet made for life

F. The Dark Sides of Cosmology and our Knowledge of it

1. Dark Matter
2. Dark Energy
3. Inflation
4. Life on other planets

G. Final Thoughts

1. Can a cosmologist be a Christian and can a theologian love cosmology?

2. Convergences and Challenges for a biblical cosmology

H. Discussion

Suggested Readings:

John Lennox, *God's Undertaker - Has science buried God?*

William L. Craig, *The Kalam Cosmological Argument, Reasonable Faith, On Guard*

G. Gonzalez, J. Richards, *The Privileged Planet*

Hugh Ross, *The Creator and the Cosmos*

Hugh Ross et al., *The Genesis Debate*

Charles Haulton (editor), *Genesis: History, Fiction, or Neither? Three Views on the Bible's Earliest Chapters* (Counterpoints: Bible and Theology)

DVD: *Our Fascinating Universe* (www.fascinating-universe.org, www.iguw.de)