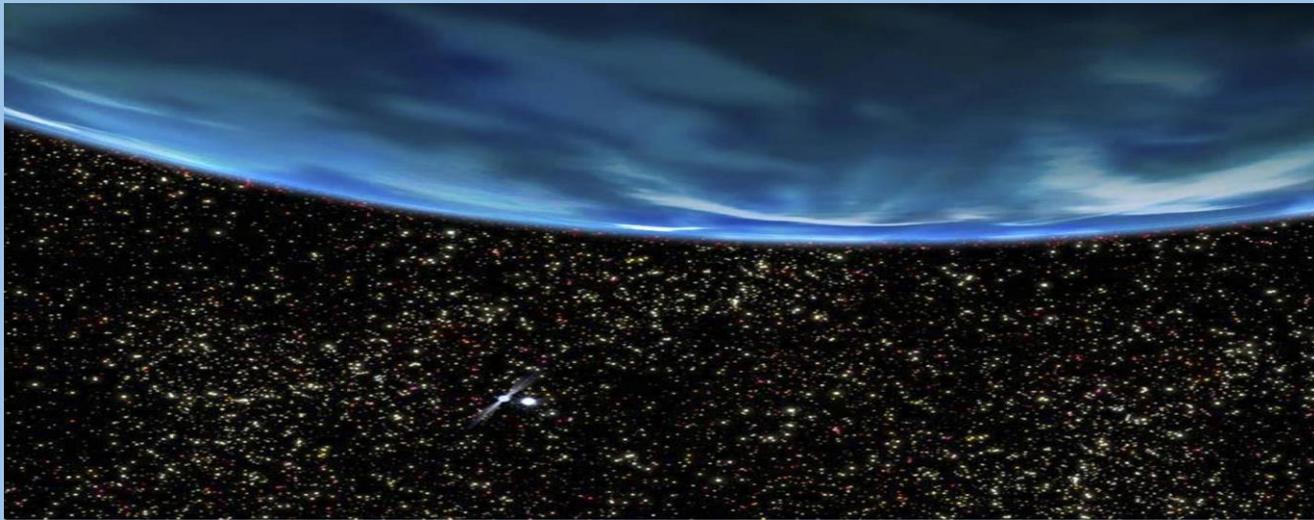


The origins & value of the universe

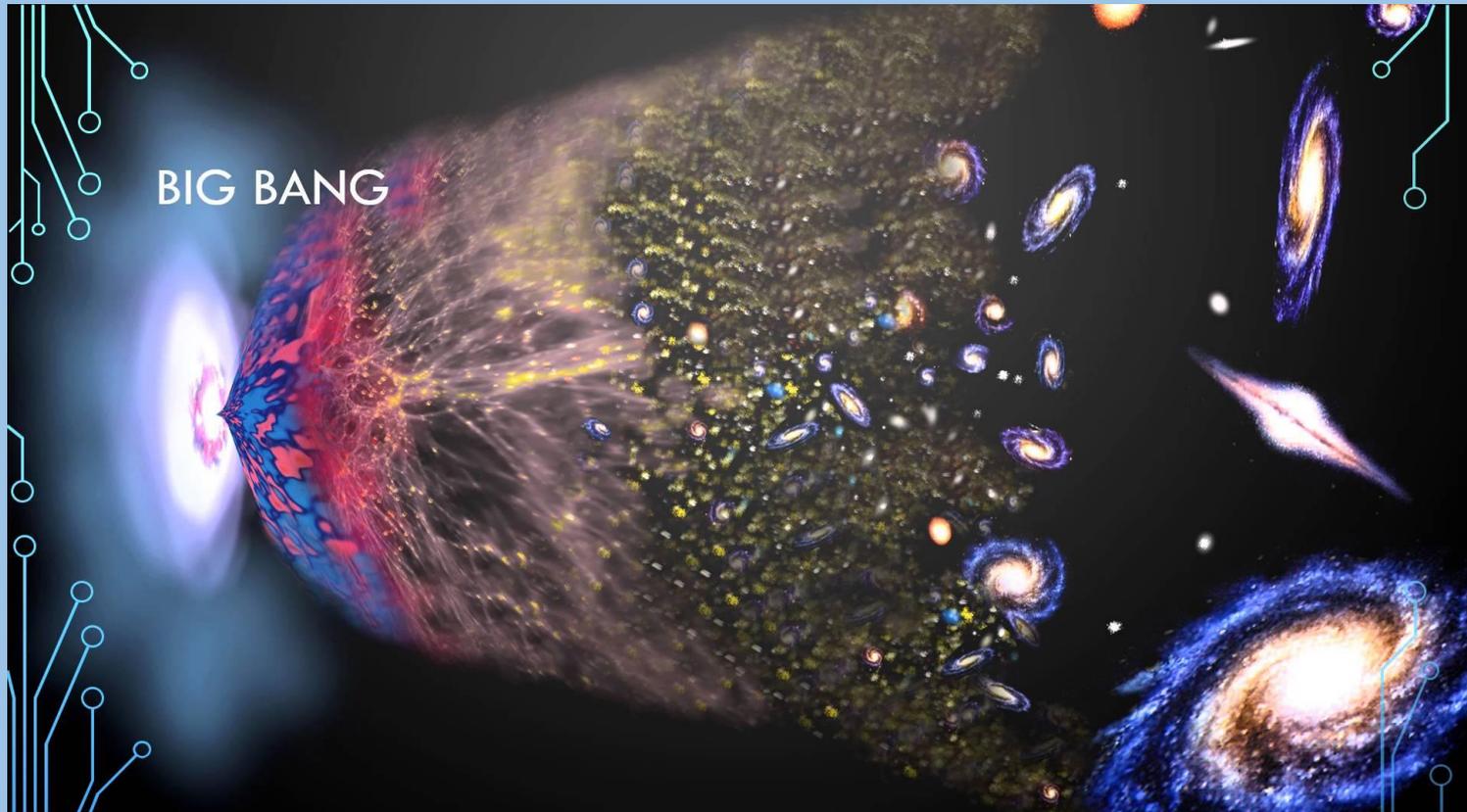


Lesson Objectives:

- To understand contemporary scientific explanations for the origins of the universe and Christian responses to them.
- To understand the value of the universe in Christian teachings.
- To understand Christian responses to the idea of the universe being viewed and used as a commodity.

Starter: How did the universe come into existence?

- List as many ways as you can



Cosmology

- Cosmology means 'the science of the study of the origins of the universe and its development'.

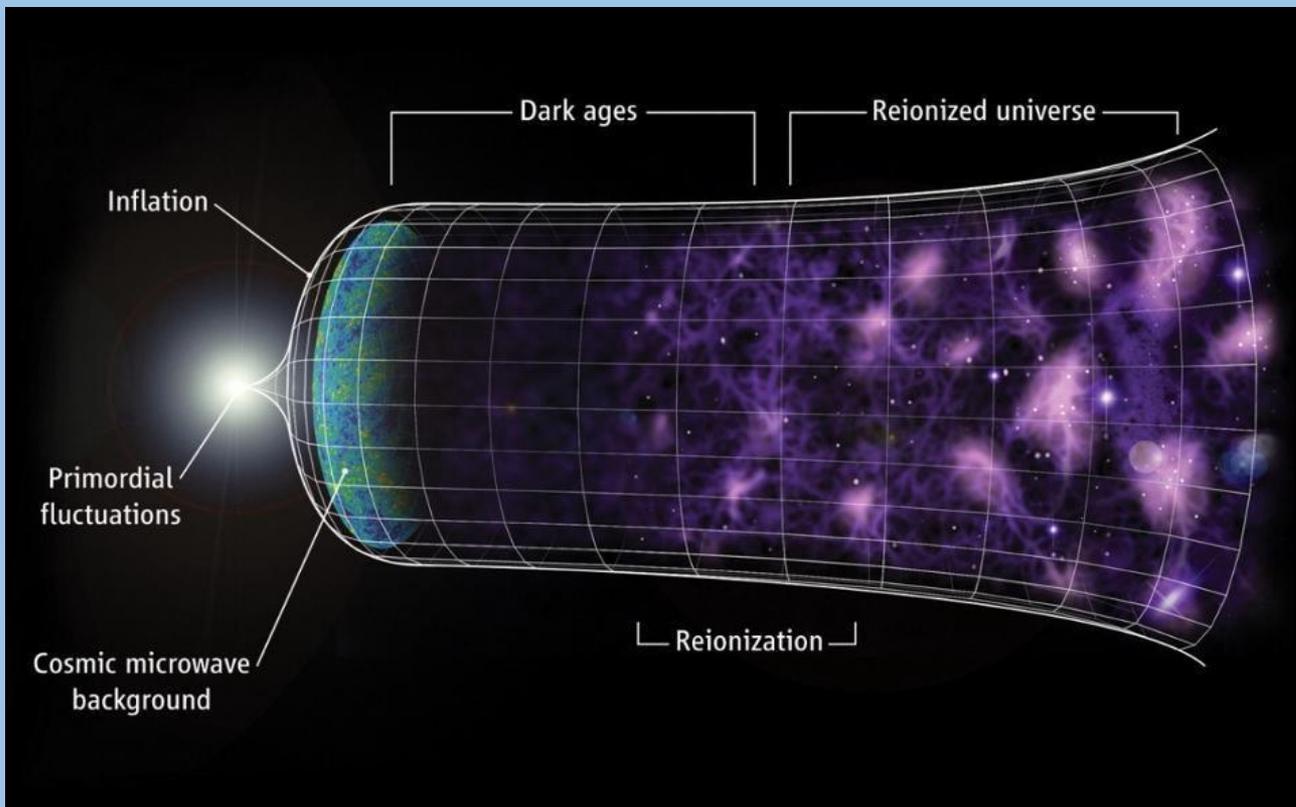
Nowadays the most common cosmology is the 'Big Bang theory'

The ideas that underpin the Big Bag theory were developed by a Roman Catholic Priest called **Georges Lemaitre**



Georges Lemaitre

One of his key ideas was the 'Theory of the Expanding Universe'



The idea that the universe has been expanding outwards and possibly into infinity, ever since it came into being. He said the expansion could be traced back to a single point of origin.

Science vs Christianity

How did Lemaitre respond to religion and science?

- He **discouraged** the connection of the 'primeval atom' (the origin of the universe) with the act of Creation by God
- He said his work as a scientist was not influenced by his Christian faith
- Science is concerned with the truth & impartial to religion
- God does not need science to prove divine creation
- Gods plan remains hidden, God is above & beyond scientific explanations

Exam style question

- a) Outline three reasons why Lemaitre thought that there was no conflict between his theories as a scientist and his Christian faith. (3 marks)

Blue pen: peer mark as we discuss the answer

Good science = Good theology



Big Bang Theory

Some Christians say this explains how God created & developed the universe.

Creationists do not accept any scientific explanations connected with the origins or development of the universe

Why might they reject scientific theories?

John Polkinghorne

- He was a professor of Mathematics and an Anglican priest.
- He believes science and religion have a very close relationship as both are searching for **truth** however they are different in the questions they ask



Science

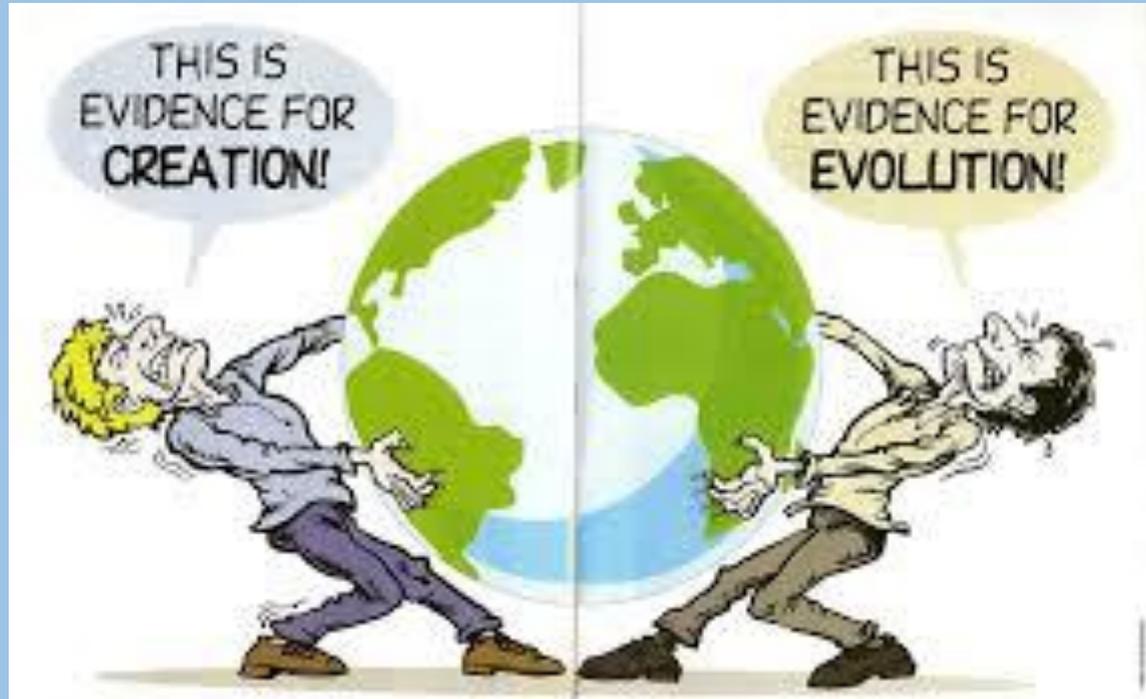


Religion

Christianity – Matters of life and death

- Many Christians (apart from Creationists) are open to listen to cosmological arguments to explore the dialogue between science and religion.
- However, Creationists accept with faith that God is the creator as explained in Genesis 1-2.

Who do you agree with?
Be ready to justify your reasons.



Is the universe a commodity?

Commodity means a raw product or material that can be traded, bought or sold.

Special revelation - Events that happened which made God's will and knowledge available e.g. incarnation/miracles.

General revelation - something that shows the existence of God in an indirect way e.g. God's care through rain, seasons, food or even the carbon cycle. Also referred to as **Natural**

Now that you know this information do you think the universe a commodity?

Why is the cosmos important for Christians?

- It is important because it has been declared 'good' by God.
- God is omniscient and omnibenevolent and therefore known and **cares** about everything that happens in the universe and **intervenes** in it.

Psalms 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God;
The skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the end of the world...

Source of
authority

Exam style question

b) Explain two reasons why Christians believe the universe is of value.

Use previous slide to help you

Homework

- Find out who Lynn Townsend White was
- Create a fact file on her