

The Agent of ex-Nihilo Creation Was Christ, Col 1:16-17; This Fact Contradicts the Theory of a “Big Bang” Supported by Astronomers & Telescopic Research

**Colossians 1:16** - For by Him [ ἐν, *en* plus the instrumental of means of αὐτός, *autos*: by means of Jesus Christ ] were all things created [ constative aorist passive indicative of κτίζω, *ktizō* ] in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers—all things were created [ intensive perfect passive indicative of κτίζω, *ktizō* ] through Him [ διά, *dia* indicating agency ] and for Him [ εἰς, *eis* indicating purpose ].

**Colossians 1:17** - And He [ Jesus Christ ] has existed eternally before all things [ the angelic race and the universe ], and by Him [ ἐν, *en* plus the instrumental of means of αὐτός, *autos*: by means of Jesus Christ ] all things hold together [ intensive perfect active indicative of συνίστημι, *sunistēmi*: literally: to stand together with; to join parts together to into a whole ].

- Three verbs in these two verses shed further light on the Lord’s creative act described in Genesis 1:1. In verse 16 the verb to create is the aorist passive indicative of κτίζω, *ktizō*:

aorist: Constative; views the action in its entirety but without stressing either the beginning or the end of the action. Thus the duration of the action must be determined by context.

*Ktizō* is the Koine Greek’s translation of the Hebrew *bara*□ and the Latin *ex nihilo*: to create something from nothing. This obviously requires an instantaneous act: for something to appear that never before existed must happen suddenly.

Thus the duration of time for the appearance of the “heavens” (the universe including interstellar space and the atmosphere around the earth) and “the earth” (the planet with its moon) must be less than a second.

passive: The universe, made up of galaxies containing stars, planets, and moons, receives the action of being created.

indicative: A statement of fact.

- The second use of *ktizō* in the verse is a perfect passive indicative:

perfect: Intensive; Indicates result and emphasizes a present state produced by a past action.

passive: The past action is the verbal expression of the Lord that resulted in the creation which received the action of the verb.

indicative: A statement of fact that emphasizes the present state of “the all things.”

- With this in mind we can expand our translation to include these ideas:

**Colossians 1:16** - For by means of Jesus Christ were all things created instantaneously in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers—all things in their present state were created through the agency of Christ and for His purpose.

- This is an absolute statement, but it comes into conflict with present prevailing theories of cosmology: a branch of astronomy that deals with the origin, structure, and space-time relationships of the universe.
- The prevailing theory of the origin of the universe is known as the big bang. It's a bit esoteric but I'd like to quote from a book that attempts to explain this theory and why it is considered to be an accurate explanation of how the universe came into being. I have pared it down to hopefully an understandable level—for me and for you:

**Ross, Hugh. "Big Bang Model Refined by Fire." In *Mere Creation: Science, Faith & Intelligent Design*, edited by William A. Dembski. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 363-65:**

Not since the Copernican Revolution have scientists and theologians battled so ferociously over an astronomical theory as they have in the twentieth century over the big bang. The protracted fighting has not been futile. Rather it has solidified and amplified the scientist's understanding of the cosmos and the Christian's case for faith in the biblical Creator.

In this big bang battle, (t)wo key players were Immanuel Kant \kǎnt\ [German philosopher, 1724-1804] and Albert Einstein \in'-shṭĭn [German-born American physicist, 1879-1955]. Kant turned the philosophical and scientific tide toward belief in an infinite universe, thereby attempting to make God irrelevant. Einstein surprised himself and the world with brilliant theoretical work that was observationally supported, that contradicted an infinite universe and that demanded a beginning. The scientific community, even Einstein himself, went through contortions to escape the creation event, which came to be known as the big bang. They understood its implication—the necessity of an Initiator, someone who initiated and carefully controlled the progress of that event. (p. 363)

Philosophy drifted along in denial while science madly scrambled to discredit the religious and therefore repugnant idea of a beginning. Cosmologists proposed one bizarre hypothesis after another—some ancient, some science fiction—in attempting to counter the growing conviction that the universe had a beginning. (pp. 363-64)

**Astronomy's Unique Perspective.** Unlike other scientific disciplines, astronomy directly observes and measures the past. Because light travels at a fixed, finite velocity, we see and measure the conditions of astronomical objects as they were when the objects began radiating light toward us. When we look at the sun, for example, we see its conditions eight minutes ago, when the visible light and other radiation we now detect left the sun. When we map the Orion Nebula, we see it as it was 1,200 years ago. When we examine the center of our galaxy, we discover what was happening there 30,000 years ago. When we study the core of the Andromeda Galaxy, we observe what took place 2 million years ago.

Astronomers witness the past. To see how the creation was taking shape a certain number of years ago, we need only focus our instruments on objects the appropriate distance away. With recent technological advances, we can actually see all the way back to a split second after the cosmic explosion with which all the universe's time, space, matter and energy began.

In 1992 the [Cosmic Background Explorer](#) (COBE) satellite brought us the first image of the moment when light separated from darkness, an event that occurred when the cosmos was just one ten-thousandth of a percent of its current age. This finding made front-page headlines around the world for days. It was widely acknowledged by scientists as the strongest proof yet for a hot big bang and thus for the existence of a transcendent Initiator. (p. 365)

- A comment is made on the NASA Web site regarding the COBE's discoveries and adds to our research on the subject of *ex-nihilo* creation versus the big bang:

**NASA's Data Center for Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) Research, <http://lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/product/cobe/> (Accessed January 16, 2008).**

The COBE satellite was developed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to measure the diffuse infrared and microwave radiation from the early universe to the limits set by our astrophysical environment. It was launched November 18, 1989 and carried three instruments, a Diffuse Infrared Background Experiment (DIRBE) to search for the cosmic infrared background radiation, a Differential Microwave Radiometer (DMR) to map the cosmic radiation sensitively, and a Far Infrared Absolute Spectrophotometer (FIRAS) to compare the spectrum of the cosmic microwave background radiation with a precise blackbody. Each COBE instrument yielded a major cosmological discovery:

**DIRBE** - Infrared absolute sky brightness maps in the wavelength range 1.25 to 240 microns were obtained to carry out a search for the cosmic *infrared* background (CIB). The CIB was originally detected in the two longest DIRBE wavelength bands, 140 and 240 microns, and in the short-wavelength end of the FIRAS spectrum. Subsequent analyses have yielded detections of the CIB in the near-infrared DIRBE sky maps. The CIB represents a "core sample" of the Universe; it contains the cumulative emissions of stars and galaxies dating back to the epoch when these objects first began to form. The COBE CIB measurements constrain models of the cosmological history of star formation and the buildup over time of dust and elements heavier than hydrogen, including those of which living organisms are composed. Dust has played an important role in star formation throughout much of cosmic history.

**DMR** - The CMB was found to have intrinsic "anisotropy" \a'-nī-sā'-tra-pē\ [Having varying values when measured in different directions. (MWCD-11).] for the first time, at a level of a part in 100,000. These tiny variations in the intensity of the CMB over the sky show how matter and energy was distributed when the Universe was still very young. Later, through a process still poorly understood, the early structures seen by DMR developed into galaxies, galaxy clusters, and the large scale structure that we see in the Universe today.

**FIRAS** - The cosmic microwave background (CMB) spectrum is that of a nearly perfect blackbody with a temperature of 2.725 +/- 0.002 K. This observation matches the predictions of the hot Big Bang theory extraordinarily well, and indicates that nearly all of the radiant energy of the Universe was released within the first year after the Big Bang.

- Although most of this is abstruse to most of us, what we learn from it is that highly technical equipment has been able to detect radiation throughout the universe that tends to support the validity of the big bang theory from a scientific point of view.
- This research confirms, from the scientific point of view, that there was a "beginning." Ergo, cause and effect require that there be a first cause for a finite creation to exist.