

# Is There a God?

## Myths and Facts, #1

**MYTH: "Christians believe that some old man in the sky magically created everything."**

FACTS: The Bible teaches is that God is spiritual, and does not live in the sky or in space (John 4). Also, God is not human- humans are created in God's image (Gen. 1:27). God is described as being supernatural: from outside of, and beyond, our universe. This is decidedly different from a belief in magic. When critics describe God as a "magic man in the sky" or something similar, they are not actually criticizing Christianity, but only their made-up perception of it- an example of the "straw man" logical failure.

**MYTH: "Belief in God or anything supernatural is unscientific."**

FACTS: Scientists often hypothesize about supernatural dimensions outside of what science can observe:

*"Mathematicians and theoretical physicists dream up models of the world using extra dimensions all the time, but why?"*

*There are serious theoretical reasons for tinkering with the notion of extra dimensions." (Are There Other Dimensions? Science and Technology Facilities Council)*

*"Scientists say extra dimensions would help explain some of the deepest mysteries of physics. The problem with detecting the fifth dimension (or the sixth, seventh, and so on) is that our bodies are built to measure only the three old-fashioned spatial dimensions, plus time as a fourth*

## Understanding Christianity



*dimension." (Physicists Probe the 5th Dimension, msnbc)*

*"Call it a fluke, a mystery, a miracle. Short of invoking a benevolent creator, many physicists see only one possible explanation: Our universe may be but one of perhaps infinitely many universes in an inconceivably vast multi-verse." (Scientists' Alternative to an Intelligent Creator, Discover Magazine)*

There are sound scientific reasons to believe that the supernatural exists, even though by definition we can't study it using science.

**MYTH: "The Big Bang Theory disproves the existence of God."**

FACTS: If anything, it does the opposite. Before there was evidence for the Big Bang, most atheists believed the Solid State Theory of the universe: that the universe had always existed roughly the way it is now, and wasn't created. Evidence for the Big Bang proved that there was an initial moment of creation for both time and space, as the Bible teaches.

The following are quotes from leaders in the scientific community reacting to confirmation of the Big Bang event by the COBE satellite in 1992:

*"These findings, now available, make the idea that God created the universe a more respectable hypothesis today than at any time in the last 100 years." -Frederick Burnham, science historian (L.A. Times, May 2, 1992)*

*"Astronomy leads us to a unique event- a universe which was created*

*out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying -one might say 'supernatural'- plan."*

-Arno Penzias, Nobel Prize-winning physicist

*"It seems to me that when confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why and not just how. The only possible answers are religious..."*

-Arthur Schawlow, Stanford Professor of Physics and Nobel Prize winner  
(*Cosmos, Bios, and Theos*, 1992)

Big Bang cosmology appears to prove that the universe- both time and space- had a definite beginning, as the Bible teaches. (Tit. 1:2, Rev. 4:11)

**MYTH: "If something cannot be studied or observed by science, then it doesn't exist."**

FACTS: Gravity, atomic particles, and dark matter are three examples of things that cannot be studied or observed, and yet are believed by scientists to exist because of their effects on observable things.

Not only do scientifically "invisible" things exist, but most scientists believe that over 90% of the universe is made up of unobservable material!  
(*Dark Energy, Dark Matter*, science.nasa.gov)

**MYTH: "There's no reason to believe in God, because there is no scientific proof of it."**

FACTS: The scientific method is useful only for answering specific kinds of questions about the natural world. For everything else, you use other kinds of

logic and reasoning. For example, you do not use the scientific method to choose what career will be best for you, or to decide matters of morality. It is rational and possible to make an informed decision about God, even without being able to use science to study Him. (*How the Scientific Method Works: Limits to the Scientific Method*, William Harris)

**MYTH: "If there was a God, he would reveal himself openly."**

FACTS: The above is really only an opinion of how one thinks that God should behave.

In the Bible, the earth is described as a sort of testing ground, which is why God reveals himself spiritually to certain people, while allowing others to stay in the dark (Mt. 11:25). We may not like the fact that God doesn't always reveal Himself physically, but there is no logical reason why God *must* do so.

Also, in Christianity, an uneducated or even mentally disabled person can be enlightened about God as much as a brilliant, genetically gifted rich man. If God revealed himself physically, this would not be the case- the poor and unprivileged would be at an unfair disadvantage.

If one accepts God as described in the Bible, than one must seek Him "in spirit and in truth" rather than as a purely mental or physical exercise (John 4).

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