

I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist

Week One:

Story of a college professor teaching a class on religion. He told his students to leave their religious beliefs at home! As we look at the Old Testament, I may make some observations that will run contrary to what you've been taught in Sunday School.

The author (Frank) of our book was searching, spiritually searching at the time he enrolled. He wanted to know the truth. He just wanted to know if there was a god or not. The professor took a skeptical view of the Old Testament (O.T.) He immediately affirmed the theory that Moses did NOT write the first five books of the Bible, and that many of the Bible's supposed prophetic passages were written after the fact. He also suggested that the Jews originally believed in many gods and that the bible editors were religious fanatics - monotheist" belief in only one God.

The professor had his own religious bias and brought it to class to reshape his students thinking with little more than, "some say."

When asked if there was a God, the professor replied, "I don't know." P. 18 He was teaching the O.T. was false but did not know if there's a God or not. The O.T. could be true if God actually exists." P. 18

Box top of a jig saw puzzle helps us see and explain the big picture to see how the puzzle pieces fit together.

The five most consequential questions in life

1. Origin : Where did we come from?
2. Identity: Who are we?
3. Meaning: Why are we here?
4. Morality: How should we live?
5. Destiny: Where are we going?

The answers to each of these questions depend on the existence of God. P. 20 If god exists, then there's ultimate meaning and purpose to your life. If there's a real purpose to your life, then there's a real right and wrong way to live it. Choices taken now not only affect you here but will affect you in eternity. On the other hand, if there is no god, then your life ultimately means nothing. Since there is no enduring purpose to life, there's no right or wrong way to live it. And it doesn't matter how you live or what you believe – your destiny is dust.

Common wisdom denies God-

- It is unreasonable to believe that one religion could be exclusively true. If only one religion were true than billions of religious people from every other religious faith are wrong today and have wrong for centuries.
Easy going Americans are more apt to believe that no religion is the truth. In America truth in religion is considered an oxymoron. There is no truth in religion we are told. It's all a matter of taste or opinion. (You like Christianity. I like Islam.)

- The second major problem with truth in religion is that some pieces of life seem to defy explanation – they don't seem to fit any religion's definition. Things such as the existence of evil and the silence of God in the face of that evil. P. 21 If God exists the skeptic asks why doesn't God just intervene to clear up all the confusion.
- Modern intellectuals say only science yields truth . Evolution has removed the need for God, they say, only what is testable in a laboratory can be considered true. They say, only science deals in matters of fact while religion stays merely p. 21, 22 in the realm of faith. They say religion is never a matter of objective fact but merely subjective taste, p. 22

What Kind of God? P 22

Three Religious World Views

1. **Theist** is someone who believes in a personal God who created the universe but is not part of the universe. (Like a painter and a painting/ creator but not created who made creation) Christianity, Judaism and Islam
2. **Pantheist** – is someone who believes in an impersonal God that literally is the universe. So, rather than making the painting, pantheists believe God is the painting. Eastern Religions such as Hinduism some forms of Buddhism and many forms of New Age.
3. **Atheist**- is someone who does not believe in any type of God. Atheists believe that what looks like a painting has always existed and no one painted it. Religious Humanist p. 23

Theism God made all; Pantheism – God is in all; Atheism – no God at all. An agnostic is some one who is unsure about the question of God.

Faith and Religion

Our culture claims that religion is only a matter of faith is nothing more than a modern myth- its not true. P. 23

Religion certainly requires faith but religion is not only about faith. Facts are also central to all religions because all 3 religious world views make truth claims, and many of those truth claims can be evaluated through scientific and historical investigation. P. 23

Example – Theists say the universe had a beginning while many atheists and pantheists say that it did not (the universe is eternal). These are mutually exclusive claims they can't both be right. P. 23

Another example is Christ's resurrection...Christians claim that Jesus rose from the dead, while Muslims say that Jesus never even died. By evaluating each of these conflicting truth claims against the historical evidence the truth can be found.

This is true also of science weighing in. Where did the universe come from? Where did life come from? Are miracles possible? Science and religion are **NOT** mutually exclusive. Many religious beliefs can be verified using scientific and historical evidence. P 24

The Problem with Christianity –

1. Intellectual objections such as the existence of evil.
2. Emotional Obstacles- with Christianity claiming Jesus as the One Way- exclusivism.
3. Volitional reasons to reject Christianity stem from our flesh not wanting to be controlled by anyone else other than me, let alone an unseen God.. p. 24

Despite these obstacles the book submits that it's not faith in Christianity that's difficult but faith in Atheism or any other religion. Once some one looks at the evidence, we think it takes more faith be a non-Christian that it does to be a Christian. P. 24 Faith is required in all / any world religious view.

Coming Up – p26 ff

1. The scientific evidence overwhelmingly confirms that the universe exploded into being out of nothing. (Christian view) or no one created something out of nothing (atheistic view).
2. The simplest life form contains the information-equivalent of 1000 encyclopedias. Christians believe that it took God intelligent design to start create this from nothing. Atheists believe in non intelligent natural forces naturally allowed this to happen.
3. Hundreds of years before hand ancient writings would foretell of a coming man who would actually be God. The man-God it was foretold, would be born in a particular city from a particular bloodline, suffer in a particular way, die in a particular way at a particular time, and rise from the dead to atone for the sins of the world. Immediately after the predicted time multiple eyewitnesses recorded that he had risen from the dead. These eyewitnesses (many) endured persecution and death when they could have saved themselves by denying these events...

The Bible the Word of God – p 28

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of truth is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exist. This is evidenced by the;
 - a. Beginning of the universe (Cosmological)
 - b. Design of the universe (Teleological/Anthropic Principle)
 - c. Design of Life (Teleological Argument)
 - d. Moral Law (Moral Argument)
4. If God exists then miracles are possible
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God (ie., as acts of God to confirm a word from God)
6. The N.T. is historically reliable. This is evidenced by;
 - a. Early testimony
 - b. Eyewitness testimony
 - c. Uninvented (authentic) testimony
 - d. Eyewitnesses who were not deceived.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by;
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about himself
 - b. His sinless life and miraculous deeds;

- c. His prediction and accomplishment of his resurrection
- 9. Therefore Jesus is God
- 10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
- 11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God
- 12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false.)

We are simply saying that if the Bible is true, then any specific claim that contradicts the Bible must be false. Christians are commanded to know what they believe and why they believe it. We are commanded to give an account to those who ask, 1 Peter 3:15 and to demolish arguments against the Christian faith 2 Cor 10:4-5. Finally we are commanded to love the Lord our God with our whole heart, soul, body and mind. Matt 22:37. P29

God has provided enough evidence in this life to convince anyone willing to believe, yet He has also left some ambiguity so as not to compel the unwilling p 31

Week Two: Truth p. 35-50

When do we expect to find truth? A reference book, a news article, from teachers. We assume road signs tell the truth, doctors and medicine. We demand truth in just about everything important to us in life. However when it comes to morality or religion we don't. In fact many downright reject the idea that any religion can be true. P. 36

Why do we say, "that's true for you but not for me?" (try using this logic at the bank or when you are pulled over for speeding.) We just don't want to be held accountable to any moral standards or religious doctrine. So we blindly accept the self defeating truth claims of politically correct individuals who tell us truth does NOT exist; everything is relative; there are no absolutes; it's all a matter of opinion; you ought not judge; religion is about faith not facts!

Perhaps St Augustine (a Catholic Monk before Luther) who said, 'we love the truth when it enlightens us, but we hate it when it convicts us. P. 36

Four Questions;

- 1 What is truth?
2. Can truth be known?
3. Can truths about God be known?
4. So what? Who cares about truth?

What is Truth?

Contrary to what is being taught in many public schools, truth is NOT relative or absolute, it TRUE for ALL PEOPLE, at ALL TIMES, in ALL PLACES. ...All truth claims are absolute, narrow and exclusive. All truths exclude their opposites. Even religious truths.

- Truth is discovered, not invented (gravity existed before Newton) p. 37
- Truth is transcultural, if it is true it is true for all people ($2+2=4$ is true world around).
- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth may change (our belief about the earth changed the earth didn't's flat earth vs. round earth)
- Beliefs can not change a fact no matter how sincerely it is believed
- Truth is not effected by the one professing it.
- All truths are absolute truths p 38
- In short, contrary beliefs are possible, but contrary truths are not possible. P. 38

A self-defeating statement is one that fails to meet its own standard. "There's no truth," claims to be a truth and thus defeats itself..when it claims to be true that there is no truth. Impossible. P. 39

Many university (and now even in lower school grades) the teacher will tell you that there is no truth. P 40

Truth is; false ideas about truth lead to false ideas about life. P40 Danger – if you can kill the concept of truth then you can kill the concept of any true religion or any true morality. P. 40-41

Can All Religions be true?

Agnostics and skeptics make the truth claim that truth can't be known but they claim that their view is true...you can't have it both ways. P. 44

Indeed...not all beliefs can be true, because many religious beliefs are contradictory – they teach opposites. For example, conservative Christians believe that those who haven't accepted Christ as their Savior have chosen hell for their destiny ...many Muslims believe the same about non-Muslims they're all headed for hell as well. Hindus generally believe that everyone, regardless of religious beliefs, is caught in an indefinite cycle of reincarnation based on works. **These contradictory beliefs can not all be true. P. 45**

While most religions have some kind of similar moral code because God has implanted right and wrong on our consciences, they disagree on virtually every major issue, including the nature of God, the nature of man, sin, salvation heaven, hell, and creation! P. 46

Jews, Christians, and Muslims believe in different versions of a theistic God, while most Hindus and New Agers believe that everything that exists is part of an impersonal, pantheistic force they call God.

Many Hindus believe that evil is a complete illusion, while Christians, Muslims and Jews believe that evil is real.

Christians believe that people are saved by grace while ALL OTHER RELIGIONS, if they believe in salvation at all, teach some kind of salvation by good works. P. 46 While most religions have some beliefs that are true, not all religious beliefs can be true because that mutually exclusive- they teach opposites. Tolerance now means (in our culture) that you are supposed to accept every belief as true! This is pluralism (all roads lead to heaven...is not true). P46

Everyone wants everyone who disagrees with their view to see things their way. P. 47

Third, the prohibition against questioning religious beliefs is also an absolute moral position. Why shouldn't we question religious beliefs? Would it be immoral to do so? By whose standards? P 47

Fourth, the Bible commands Christians to question religious beliefs (Duet 13:1-5; 1 John 4:1; Gal 1:8; 2 Cor 11:13. Those who cry out for tolerance (COEXIST) are not tolerant at all but tolerate only those who agree with them. That is not tolerance. P.47

While we should respect the rights of others to believe what they want, we are foolish, and maybe even unloving, to tacitly accept every religious belief as true....Instead if Christianity be true, we ought to kindly tell them the truth because only we can set them free. P. 48 1 Peter 3:15

Week Three- p 51-69

Why Do You Believe what You Do Believe? P51 Researcher James Sire says there are 4 basic REASONS

1. Sociological – parents friends, society, culture

2. Psychological – comfort, peace of mind, meaning, purpose, hope, identity
3. Religious Reasons – Scripture, Pastor/Priest, Guru, Rabbi, Imam, Church
4. Philosophical Reasons- Consistency, coherent, completeness (best explains all evidence)

Student/Professor dialog boils down to Philosophy in the classical sense where it means finding truth through logic, evidence and science. P. 53 An apologist is someone who shows how good reason and evidence support or contradict a particular belief. That's what we're attempting to do in this book.

Sire's Socratic approach helps students realize three things.

1. Any teaching – religious or otherwise is worth trusting only if it points to truth.
2. Many beliefs that people hold today are not supported by evidence but only subjective preferences. Truth is not a subjective matter of taste –it's an objective matter of fact.
3. Facts are best discovered through logic, evidence and science. P54

Western vs Eastern Logic p. 54

Professor and Presenter argue over which I correct; Both AND logic vs Either OR (relativism) which teaches two opposing logical answers...Jesus can be truly God OR He is not. The Eastern logic relativism would argue that to me Jesus is God but to others He is not. (NO ABSOLUTES despite evidence). TRUTH is TRUE no matter what...Professor Ravi was from India He was Indian whether lecturing in the U.S. or living in his home country. Logic uses UNDENIABLE TRUTHS of logic that report on the evidence. Contradictory claims can not both be true. The opposite of true is false.

Likewise when Jesus died and rose again from the dead as the bible claims , or he did not as Qur'an claims. One is right and the other is wrong. P. 57

David Hume is responsible for the skepticism prevalent today. Hume believed that all meaningful ideas were either true by definition or must be based on sense experience. According to Hume there are no sense experiences for concepts beyond the physical, any metaphysical claims – including God are meaningless.

Hume's two conditions were based in the principle of verifiability or the refusal to believe in the existence of reality beyond the physical. P. 58

If we take in our hand any volume of divinity or school metaphysics we must ask, "Does it contain any abstract reasoning concerning quantity or number? No. 'Does it contain any experimental reasoning concerning matter of fact and existence?' No. Commit it then to the flames, for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion" In short any book talking of God is meaningless. P. 58 A professor at a divinity school who claimed to be Catholic admitted to being an atheist, when confronted he said, 'you don't have to believe in God to be a Catholic-you just have to keep the rules!' p58

The principle of empirical verifiability states that there are only two kinds of meaningful propositions; 1) those that are true by definition and 2) those that are empirically verifiable. Since the principle of verifiability, itself is neither true by definition nor empirically verifiable, it can not be meaningful. P. 59

Kant's Agnosticism:

Immanuel Kant's impact has been even more devastating to Christian worldview. Because Kant believed, the structure of your senses and your mind forms all senses data, so you never really know the

thing in itself. P 59/60 In short you Kant know the real tree itself, only the tree as it appears to you. According to Kant we are locked in complete agnosticism about the real world because between us and the real world there is an unbridgeable gulf. Kant's essence is saying the truth about the real world is that there are no truths about the real world. P60 (Self defeating statement) How can he know that there is an unknowable world or that it can not be known?

So if Hummel and Kant are wrong, logic would tell us then that there is a THEISTIC GOD. Is there such a thing as knowable evidence for an unseen God? P. 62

HOW IS TRUTH KNOWN?

By what process is truth known p66

1. Law of Noncontradiction
2. Law of the Excluded Middle tells us that something is or is not; ie., either Jesus rose from the dead or did not. There are no third alternatives.
3. General conclusions from specific observation is called induction (often equated with scientific method) Much of what we know you know by induction. P64 Gravity affects all objects not just some. P65 Thus as far as we have observed we can use induction to determine that gravity affects all objects. Thus there is a bit of faith needed to use induction to deduce that all objects are governed by the law of gravity.
4. By reasoning – every law declares one behavior right and its opposite wrong – that's morality. Whose morality should be legislated on issues such as abortion or euthanasia? If it's morally wrong to kill innocent people, shouldn't that truth be legislated? The answers we legislate can dramatically affect every citizen's life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Did it matter the Supreme Court ruled in 1857 in the Dred Scott case that blacks were not citizens and were the property of slave owners? Did it matter that the Nazis believed the Jews were inferior and ultimately could be extinguished? P 67 Truth in morality matters. What about truth in religion? A naval officer talking with a Christian said, "I don't believe in the Bible. But if it is true, then I'll be in big trouble? P. 67 Truth in religion matters now and in eternity! Ideas have consequences. P. 68 We owe it to ourselves and to others to find the real truth and then act on it.

By reasoning that this book has an author, you are naturally putting observation, induction and deduction together to determine truth. Our thoughts in logical form go in this form.

1. All books have at least one author (premise based on inductive investigation)
2. This book is a book based on observation.
3. Therefore, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist has at least an author. P66

So What Who Cares About Truth? Many of us are ignorant or apathetic about truth but as one student said, "I don't know and I don't care."

1. Truth really matters especially when they are treated immorally. They may claim that lying isn't wrong but watch what happens when someone lies to them ...p66
2. Success in life often is dependant on the moral choices we make. Choices of sex, marriage, children, drugs, money business dealings. Some choices bring prosperity others bring ruin. P 67
3. Whose morality? Every law declares one action ok, the other wrong. Ideas have consequences

Summary p 69-70

1. People often get their beliefs from their parents, friends, childhood religion or culture. The only way to be reasonably certain is to test beliefs by the evidence and that is done by utilizing sound phil
2. Logic tells us that opposites cannot be true at the same time in the same sense. Logic is true in all places and times.
3. Hume is not skeptical about skepticism and Kant is agnostic about agnosticism therefore their views defeat themselves. It is possible to know truths about God.
4. Many truths about God can be known by His effects which we can observe (natural law Rom 1)
5. Truth in morality and religion has temporal and eternal consequences. Apathy and ignorance can be fatal.
6. So why should anyone believe anything at all? Because they have evidence to support those beliefs, and because beliefs have consequences.

Week Four p.72-94 Is it true that theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the;

- Beginning of the universe (Cosmological Argument)
- Design of the universe (Teleological Argument/Anthropic Principle)
- Design of Life (Teleological Argument)
- Moral Law (Moral Argument)

In the Beginning There Was a Great Surge p73

“Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind” Albert Einstein

It was in 1916 and Albert Einstein didn't like where his calculations were leading him. If his theory of General Relativity was true, it meant that the universe was not eternal but had a beginning...this meant there was a definite beginning of all time, all matter, and all space. He thought this discovery was “irritating.” He wanted the universe to be self-existent – not reliant on any outside cause – but the universe appeared to be one giant effect. Later discoveries 1922 and 1927 proved not only that universe, time, space all of it had a beginning but also that it was EXPANDING as is also documented by the Hubble telescope.

General Relativity was again confirmed, the universe had a definite beginning and is expanding. Einstein could no longer support his “eternal universe.” His comments now describe Cosmological creation beginning of all – created by God and helps explain that all things came to be through God (later discussion).

The Cosmological Argument-The Beginning of the End for Atheism p. 75

Cosmos from the Greek word for world or universe.

The cosmological argument is the argument from the beginning of the universe. If the universe had a beginning, then the universe had a cause. P. 75 The argument to be true it has to be logically valid and its premises must be true.

Premise 1: Everything that had a beginning had a cause, which is the fundamental principle of science. Without the Law of Causality, science is impossible. In other words science searches for CAUSES. That's what scientists do they search for and try to discover what caused what.

We can observe definitely in the universe that things don't happen without a cause. If someone says, “I don't believe in the Law of Causality,” ask, “What caused you to believe that?”

Premise 2: Did the universe have a beginning? If not, then no cause was needed. If so, then the universe must have had a cause. Until the time of Einstein, atheists could comfort themselves with the belief that the universe is eternal, and thus did not need a cause (a Creator). Since then, five lines of scientific evidence have been discovered that prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the universe did indeed have a beginning. Scientists today call it, “The Big Bang”

SURGE p.76

The second law of Thermodynamics is the study of matter and energy and it states that the universe is running out of usable energy. This leads scientist to conclude that the universe will

Will come to an end. That is our universe had a beginning and it will have an end.

The second law is also known as the Law of Entropy, which means nature tends to bring things to disorder, things naturally fall apart (wear out)..p. 77 (think of the aging process of your car, your home, your body)

Discussion wiith a Professor who was a “materialist,” said he doubted the Second Law of Thermodynamics that proves the earth (material) came to be, “had a beginning” a “cause.” Thus disproving the professors stance that all that is has always been, did not have a beginning. I (Frank) asked him, ‘if everything is material then what is a scientific theory about everything being material isn’t that made out of molecules?’ No the professor replied, A theory is magic!

“Faith,” he quickly replied. “Faith in MAGIC,” ???p 78 I came to the conclusion that I don’t have enough faith to be a materialist. This professor had based his view of the world being eternal that he denied the science of the 2nd Law.

P.79 U-The Universe is Expanding ...Einstein’s General Relativity predicted an expanding universe nearly a decade later Hubble cinfirmed that the universe is expanding and that it’s expanding from a single point. This proves also that the universe had a beginning. P79 Once there was nothing, and then BANG there was something, the entire universe came into being. It’s important to undertand the universe is not expanding into empty space, but space irswld ia wzpNSINF, THERE WAS NO SPACE BEFORE THE BIG BANG. Time, space and matter came into existence at the Big Bang. P. 79

Read p 80, 81 the debate between Craig and Atkins (atheist). Atkins believed the universe has always existed materially without cause. He writes, “Now go back in time, and to where there was no space? At this time before time he imagines a swirling of dust of mathematical points which recombine again and again and again and finally come by trial and error to form our space time universe.” P 80

R- Radiation from the Big Bang – The third line of scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning was discovere by accident in 1965 Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson detected strange radiation. These two Bell Lab scientists discovered the afterglow from the Big Bang fireball explosion. This actual light from the initial explosion.

G- Great Galaxy Seeds – After finding the predicted expanding universe and radiation afterglow. With the radiation from the beginning bang scientists began to look for ‘ripples,’ in temperature that would allow for matter to congregate by gravitational attraction to form into galaxies. 1989 these ripples were studied by NASA with a \$200 million dollar satellite called COBE p.82 The project leader, SMOOT, released this press release all over the world, “If you’re religious, it’s like looking at God.” “The significance of this discovery can not be overstated. They have found the Holy Grail of Cosmology.” Even, Cambridge astronomer, Stephan Hawking also agreed, “this is the most important discovery of the centure, if not of all time.” Hawking is an atheist. NOTE COBES pictures are pictures of the past taken at our point in time. They are pictures of the very early universe. The ripples show that explosions and

expansion of the universe was very precisely tweaked to cause just enough matter to congregate to allow galaxy formation, but not enough to cause the universe to collapse back on itself. Any slight variation one way or the other, and none of us would be here to tell about it. So exact are these ripples that Smoot called them the “finger prints of the maker. P. 83 Smoot called these SEEDS of the Galaxies as they exist today.

E – Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity. The E in SURGE is for Einstein. It is the fifth life of scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning. Mathematically Einstein’s theory of relativity has been proven. Because of the Theory of Relativity we discovered not only that the universe had a beginning but that the universe is also expanding. P 84

God and the Astronomers p. 84

So the universe had a beginning. What does that mean for the question of God’s existence? Astronomer Jastrow, the founder of NASA’s Goddard Institute of Space Studies, wrote a book, “God and the Astronomers” HE asks, ‘does the Big Bang point to God?’ Jastrow is himself agnostic. He further writes, “Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same; the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy. PP. 84

Astronomers have proven by their own methods that the world began abruptly, in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. P85 “The beginning seems to present insuperable difficulties unless we agree to look on it as frankly supernatural.” P. 85 Therefore, there must be something outside of nature to do the job. That’s exactly what the word supernatural means. P. 85

Our view is that the universe was created out of nothing in an instant, and continues to expand.

Is there a creator? “Certainly something set it off” The Big Bang fits nicely with the Biblical view of the world being created, out of nothing and having a definite beginning.

The Empire Strikes Back p. 86

What do atheists have to say about this? We’ve already seen the shortcomings in the explanations of Atkins and Isaac Asimov—they start with SOMETHING rather than literally nothing. Are there any other atheistic explanations out there that may be plausible? NOT that we’ve found. Atheists come up with other theories but they all have fatal flaws.

1. The Cosmic Rebound Theory – the universe has been expanding and contracting forever. This helps them avoid a definite beginning. (But obviously it avoids answering the question where did something come from. This theory fails because there is no evidence for a repeating Big BANG...bang...bang..bang...bang. Radiologically the universe appears to have exploded once from nothing not repeatedly.
2. There is not enough matter in the universe to pull it back together.
3. A repeating Bang (causing expansion and later contraction) repeatedly would fizzle out because each bang there would be the transfer of energy and the subsequent loss of it.
4. No explanation for what caused the first Big BANG...there was nothing to bang.

Imaginary Time p. 87

Other atheist attempt to explain how the universe exploded into being out of nothing. Stephen Hawking made up a theory of "IMAGINARY TIME." Hawking himself admits that his theory is just a metaphysical proposal that cannot explain what happened in real time. In real time, he admits, the universe had a beginning at the Big Bang.

Uncertainty – p.87

Some atheist question the Law of Causality because of the evidence supporting a beginning of the universe (notice that the facts both scientifically and logically show that the universe had a beginning this simply does not fit their beliefs.) The fact that we can not predict something doesn't mean that something has no cause.

The Religion of Science p 88

Jarrows an atheist

"Theologians are generally delighted with the proof the Universe had a beginning, but astronomers are curiously upset. Their reactions provide an interesting demonstration of the response of the scientific mind-supposedly a very objective mind-when evidence uncovered by science itself leads to a conflict with the articles of faith in our confession. It turns out that the scientist behaves the way the rest of us do when our beliefs are in conflict with the evidence.

Everyone knows that THEIST have theological beliefs but atheists have biased beliefs also that deny the evidence in favor of their biases. Jarrows 'there is a kind of religion in science...every effect must have its cause; there is no First Cause...This religious faith butts heads with the scientific discovery that the universe had a beginning. What happens, ...the scientist has lost control. HE has no explanation as to the origin of the universe. It seems that they are simply refusing to accept the facts and most reasonable conclusion that come from them. P.

What if the Big Bang Theory is Wrong? P. 89

We've given solid scientific evidence (SURGE) for the fact that the universe had a beginning. This is highly unlikely given the vast amount of evidence that the universe had a beginning point. Victor Stenger a physicist wrote, "the universe exploded out of nothingness." The Big Bang is looking more probable all the time.

Who Made God p 92

If everything needs a cause, then God needs a cause too! The Law of Causality says that everything came to be needs a cause. We understand God as; "IS" I AM that I AM. God did NOT COME to BE. No one made God. He is UNMADE. As an eternal being He did not have a beginning, so He did not need a cause.

The atheist calls foul! If you can have an eternal self existing God then I can have an eternal universe. In fact there are only two possibilities – the universe or something that caused the universe to begin. The scientific evidence points us to the universe was created...had a beginning thus something outside the universe is eternal (God). P 93

One might think you can rely on a Bible to answer the how did we get here question....but how do we speak to those about our God, His creation which declares His glory if they deny our Bible? Einstein's quote , that science without religion is lame but religion without science is blind,' sheds light on how to speak to our world which is deaf to such things. From the First Cause (how it all comes to be) we learn

- **Self existence, timeless, nonspatial, and immaterial (since the First Cause created time, space, and matter, the First Cause must be outside of time, space and matter(. In other words, He is without limits, or infinite**
- **Unimaginably powerful, to create the entire universe out of nothing;**
- **Supremely intelligent to design the universe with such incredible precision**
- **Personal, in order to choose to convert a state of nothingness into the time-space material universe (because an impersonal force has no ability to make choices).**

All of these characteristics and observations are ascribed to God and they are drawn from the scientific evidence.