

I am coming more and more to the conviction that Genesis 1:1 indicates the creation of the universe as a whole and that verse 2 describes the condition of the present earth at a rather early time in its career. This might have occurred immediately after the creation of the universe as a whole, or there might have been billions of years in between. Genesis does not give us any basis on which to make a decision regarding this point of the chronology.

If this is so, the only place where there would be any difference between the Big Bang Theory and the Steady State Theory, as far as the relation to Genesis is concerned, would be in Genesis 1:1, which simply declares: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." It would seem to me quite reasonable in this verse to interpret the phrase, "the heavens and the earth" as indicating the universe as a whole.

The verse does not give us any detail as to the condition in which God originally created the universe. It would be entirely possible to interpret it as meaning that he brought into existence a dense concentration of all the energy that is now in the universe, and then caused a tremendous explosion to shoot it out in all directions, quickly producing the various elements that we now find existing, and causing the formation of suns, planets and galaxies.

On the other hand, it would be not at all impossible to interpret the verse as meaning that God instantaneously created the entire universe with galaxies, suns, and planets, and with an established system in which the galaxies would constantly move toward the outer edge of the universe, there giving up their energy so that by some process not yet known to us it would be carried back to more central parts of the universe and could there reappear as individual units of hydrogen. Could not the Lord have instantaneously created a whole universe, so arranged that a series of events would already be in continuous progress, just as easily as he could have established a situation in which this tremendous mass of energy would be concentrated in one place and ready to start the tremendous explosion?

As an outsider in the field of astrophysics, I have no right to speak, but as one who has devoted his life to study of the Old Testament, I am tremendously interested in the entire problem. At the moment, I am inclined to think that either theory, or the pulsating theory for that matter, could fit equally with Genesis 1:1, and that the statements of Genesis 1:2-10 would fit with the coming of the earth into its present condition as held by any one of the three theories. Am I right in these conclusions?

Thank you for the copy of the pages in Newsweek. I suppose that this article, since it was prepared by a journalist, is not altogether reliable, but is generally dependable? The picture of the comparative size of the different portions of the universe is very graphic.