

Questions for Lesson 3: The Cause of the Beginning

1. How do we know that the creation had a beginning from the fuel that powers it?

Answer: Hydrogen is a non-renewable resource. There is no process in the cosmos that we can observe making hydrogen. Since hydrogen fuels the universe and is constantly being consumed, we would have no hydrogen left if the universe had been here forever. Since there is huge amount of hydrogen in the cosmos, there had to be a beginning

2. How do we know how much hydrogen there is in the sun?

Answer: We can measure the light coming from matter in the sun and tell what elements are giving off that light. This is known as spectrographic analysis and is used in all areas of science. By measuring the amount of light and knowing the mass and volume of the sun we can calculate how much hydrogen is there.

3. How do we know the Sun still has over 90% of its original hydrogen?

Answer: We know how much helium is on the Sun and we know it takes four hydrogen atoms to make each helium atom. Take the helium, multiply by four and you know how much hydrogen has been used up.

4. Give an example of an every day use of the second law of thermodynamics.

Answer: (a) We are all getting older.

(b) Children's rooms get more and more disorganized.

(c) Gases diffuse.

(d) Black holes exist.

(e) Many other examples can be found in a physics book.

5. Why can the second law not be used to disprove evolution?

Answer: The second law only applies to a closed system--one with nothing being added from the outside. Because the earth is not a closed system, the second law should not be applied to it. Energy is being added to the earth by the sun and other sources. You can argue that the second law makes evolution less likely, but it is a poor argument too use on an atheist.

6. In the first program we saw the cosmos had a beginning. Why is it important to know whether it was caused or not?

Answer: If it was caused, one must decide what caused it.

7. What does the Bible claim about the cause?

Answer: That the cause was God, a being outside of space and time who created with intelligence and purpose.

8. If the atheist admits that there was a beginning, how will he or she explain the cause?

Answer: Their explanation could be that some process we don't understand produced matter/energy from nothing.

9. Why is this a difficult answer to challenge?

Answer: One would have to know what we don't understand. It has been said that arguing from ignorance is the safest of all positions.

10. What is the logical problem in saying that matter/energy came from nothing?

Answer: All conservation laws of science are violated (matter/energy, momentum, charge, etc.).

11. Why does God not need a cause?

Answer: Because he is outside of space and time. Only time-dependent objects like us need a cause. Anything or anyone that exists outside of time does not need a cause because of having no beginning. (More on this later.)

12. If we had a beginning, and if that beginning was caused, what would be the next logical question?

Answer: Was the cause a personal God who created with design, order, purpose, intelligence, and reason; or was the cause something non-personal demonstrating only chance?