

Two of God's Parables: God Creates Something from Nothing

Parable One - Empty Space

Space is expanding. The current rate of expansion is called Hubble's constant and is 70 kilometers per second for each megaparsec of distance in space between galaxies. (A megaparsec is one million parsecs or about 3.3 million light years).

Therefore: A cubic volume of space one megaparsec on a side grows at the rate of 2×10^{41} cubic kilometers every second (that's 2 followed by 41 zeros). This is an outrageous amount of new space that did not exist before being added every second. A side note is that this does not happen in space bound by matter or our rulers would grow at the same rate and we would not notice the expansion as Edwin Hubble first measured.

This observation of the expansion of space has been repeated over and over by astronomers and by those studying the history and structure of the universe. Here are some consequences of these observations.

We can calculate backwards in time by asking, how long it would take that same volume to grow from zero to its current size of a cubic megaparsec? The answer is almost 14 billion years. That is one way of estimating the age of the universe

Not only is space expanding but the energy of empty space (yes there is energy in empty space) is being added so the energy density of empty space is constant.

Not only is space expanding but the rate of expansion has been increasing. We do not know why this is happening but we can observe it. It is as though there is a force or energy creating this effect. Scientists do not know what this force or energy is so they have named it the Dark Force or Dark Energy.

Given the immense amount of empty space in our known universe and given that energy and matter are the same thing ($E=MC^2$), the total energy of the observable universe is about 70% dark energy, 25% dark matter and 5% the stuff we commonly called matter and probably thought of when we read "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2) (from NIV 2010, <http://www.biblegateway.com>)

Here is a web site from NASA as a reference. <http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/focus-areas/what-is-dark-energy/>

Parable Two – Flowing Water of Life

Ezekiel 47:1-12 The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He

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then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

³ As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits^[a] and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴ He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵ He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. ⁶ He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸ He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah,^[b] where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹ But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. ¹² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” (from NIV 2010, <http://www.biblegateway.com>)

Parable Meaning: Do both of these parables come from the Creator and do they tell us something of the nature of the Creator, the God of the Bible? I think so. God is not restricted to our standards of conservation of matter and energy. Rather God creates a lot from a little and keeps on creating. Where does the “real” end and the “Spirit” begin?

“For my thoughts are **not your** thoughts, neither are **your ways my ways,**” declares the LORD. Isaiah 55:7-9 (in Context) Isaiah 55 (Whole Chapter)

Rollie Otto, January, 2011

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