

Pope Francis says Big Bang theory does not contradict role of God

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The image is a screenshot of a Reuters news article. At the top, the Reuters logo is visible along with navigation links for World, Business, Markets, Sustainability, and More. The article title is "Pope Francis says Big Bang theory does not contradict role of God". Below the title, it says "Reuters" and "October 28, 2014 8:49 PM GMT+2 · Updated 9 years ago". There are also icons for font size (Aa) and sharing. The main image shows Pope Francis in white vestments, smiling and waving. A caption below the image reads: "A gust of wind blows Pope Francis' mantle as he leaves at the end of his weekly audience in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican October 22, 2014. REUTERS/Stefano Reilandini Acquire Licensing Rights".

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Scientific theories including the "Big Bang" believed to have brought the universe into being 13.7 billion years ago and the idea that life developed through a process of evolution do not conflict with Catholic teaching, Pope Francis said on Tuesday.

Addressing a meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, an independent body housed in the Vatican and financed largely by the Holy See, Francis said scientific explanations for the world did not exclude the role of God in creation.

"The beginning of the world is not the work of chaos that owes its origin to something else, but it derives directly from a supreme principle that creates out of love," he said.

"The 'Big Bang', that today is considered to be the origin of the world, does not contradict the creative intervention of God, on the contrary it requires it," he said.

"Evolution in nature is not in contrast with the notion of (divine) creation because evolution requires the creation of the beings that evolve," the pope said.

The Church once opposed early scientific explanations of the universe that contradicted the account of creation in the Bible, famously condemning the 17th century astronomer Galileo Galilei who showed that the earth revolved around the sun.

However, more recently it has sought to shed its image as an enemy of science and the pope's comments largely echoed statements from his predecessors.

Pope Pius XII described evolution as a valid scientific approach to the development of humans in 1950 and Pope John Paul reiterated that in 1996.

In 2011, the former Pope Benedict said scientific theories on the origin and development

of the universe and humans, while not in conflict with faith, left many questions unanswered.

Reporting by Antonio Denti; writing by James Mackenzie; editing by Ralph Boulton

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN0IH1ZV/>

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Pope Francis: Big Bang and evolution confirm God exists



28 October 2014

Pope Francis has said he believes in the Big Bang theory.

The pontiff also said that the scientific account of the beginning of the universe confirms God's existence.

At a meeting of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Sciences, he said that evolution was compatible with God's plan.

He said though the first book of the Bible, **Genesis, might suggest God was a "magician with a magic wand able to do everything," that this "is not so".**

Instead he claimed that God "created human beings and let them develop according to the internal laws that he gave to each one so they would reach their fulfilment," reported the Religious News Service.

He added: **"Evolution in nature is not inconsistent with the notion of creation, because evolution requires the creation of beings that evolve."**

What's the theory?

The **Big Bang** theory is the idea that the universe began in a single tiny bubble 13.7 billion years ago, more miniscule than anything we could ever imagine.

Scientists then believe there was a massive hot explosion which caused the universe to expand at an enormous speed, a process which is still happening today.

It has traditionally caused conflict with religious groups because of the belief that creation comes "ex-nihilo" or out of nothing.

Evolution has been similarly controversial because of the suggestion that the world is shaped by random changes, rather than through God's intelligent design.

Despite this, **the Catholic Church declared the Big Bang and evolutionary theories were compatible with their concept of creation in 1951.**

Like the current Pope, predecessor Benedict XVI also felt the conflict between

creationism and belief in evolution absurd.

"I see in Germany, but also in the United States, a somewhat fierce debate raging between so-called creationism and evolutionism, presented as though they were mutually exclusive alternatives," he wrote in 2007.

Differences between religious and scientific learning can be traced as far back as Galileo Galilei, whose belief that the Earth orbited the Sun saw him forced to deny his belief.

His books were banned and he was placed under house arrest until his death in 1642.

Groups such as the Young Earth Creationists reject evolution and the Big Bang theory and believe that the Earth was literally created in six 24-hour days.

Giulio Giorello, professor of the philosophy of science at Milan's University degli Studi, told reporters that the Pope's latest statement was important because it showed the pontiff was trying to counter the perception that the church was at odds with science.

Pope Francis paid tribute to his predecessor Benedict XVI as a "great pope" as he unveiled a new sculpture of him at the same event on Monday.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-29799534>

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Pope Francis invites scientists to the Vatican after Catholic Church realises the Big Bang is real



The conference comes amid an increasing effort to tie religion and science together

Andrew Griffin. Tuesday 09 May 2017 10:24 BST

The Vatican has invited the world's leading scientists and cosmologists to try and understand the Big Bang.

Astrophysicists and other experts will attend the Vatican Observatory to discuss black holes, gravitational waves and space-time singularities as it honors the late Jesuit cosmologist considered one of the fathers of the idea that the universe began with a gigantic explosion.

The conference – which runs through the week – is part of an increasing admission by the church that scientific theories were real and not necessarily in contradiction with theological doctrine.

Pope Francis declared in 2014 for instance that God is not "a magician with a magic wand" and that evolution and Big Bang theory are real.

The conference honours Jesuit priest, Monsignor George Lemaitre, and is being held at the Vatican Observatory. The observatory was founded by Pope Leo XIII in 1891 to help correct the notion that the Roman Catholic Church was hostile to science.

In 1927, Lemaitre was the first to explain that the receding of distant galaxies was the result of the expansion of the universe, a result he obtained by solving equations of Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Lemaitre's theory was known as the "primeval atom," but it is more commonly known today as the big-bang theory.

"He understood that looking backward in time, the universe should have been originally in a state of high energy density, compressed to a point like an original atom from which everything started," according to a press release from the Observatory.

The head of the Vatican Observatory, Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, says Lemaitre's research proves that you can believe in God and the big-bang theory.

"Lemaitre himself was very careful to remind people — including Pope Pius XII — that the creative act of God is not something that happened 13.8 billion years ago. It's something that happens continually," Consolmagno said Monday.

Believing merely that God created the big bang means "you've reduced God to a nature god, like Jupiter throwing lightning bolts. That's not the God that we as Christians believe in," he said.

Christians, he said, believe in a supernatural God who is responsible for the existence of the universe, while "our science tells us how he did it."

Additional reporting by Associated Press

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/pope-francis-big-bang-scientists-vatican-catholic-church-realise-discuss-evolution-physics-space-a7725706.html>

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Ο πάπας Φραγκίσκος προσκάλεσε στο Βατικανό επιστήμονες σε συνέδριο για τη θεωρία του «Big Bang»



Κυριακή, 14 Μαΐου 2017 15:45 Αναστασία Κιτσικώστα - CNN Greece

Το Βατικανό προσκάλεσε τους μεγαλύτερους επιστήμονες και κοσμολόγους του πλανήτη σε ένα συνέδριο όπου η εκκλησία και η επιστήμη θα προσπαθήσουν να κατανοήσουν τη θεωρία του «Big Bang», σύμφωνα με την οποία το Σύμπαν δημιουργήθηκε από μια υπερβολικά πυκνή και θερμή κατάσταση, πριν από περίπου 13,8 δισεκατομμύρια χρόνια.

Το συνέδριο διεξάγεται στο αστεροσκοπείο του Βατικανού, το οποίο ιδρύθηκε από τον Πάπα Λέοντα ΙΓ΄ το 1891, με σκοπό να δοθεί τέλος στην πεποίθηση που θέλει την Ρωμαιοκαθολική εκκλησία να είναι εχθρική απέναντι στην επιστήμη.

Το συγκεκριμένο πιστεύω, που βασίστηκε κυρίως στη δίκη του Γαλιλαίου, παραμένει ακόμη ισχυρό με το πέρασμα των χρόνων, παρότι το αστεροσκοπείο αλλά και καθολικά πανεπιστήμια ανά τον κόσμο διαπρέπουν στους τομείς των φυσικών επιστημών.

Το 1927, ο Ζωρζ Λεμαίτρ, (Βέλγος Ρωμαιοκαθολικός ιερέας, καθηγητής της Φυσικής, αστρονόμος, κοσμολόγος και μαθηματικός) ήταν αυτός που εισηγήθηκε πρώτος την ιδέα που αργότερα έχει γνωστή ως η θεωρία της Μεγάλης Εκρήξεως "Big Bang" για τη γέννηση του Σύμπαντος, την οποία είχε ονομάσει «υπόθεση του πρωταρχικού ατόμου».



Lemaitre

Την εποχή εκείνη ο Αϊνστάιν πίστευε ότι το Σύμπαν ήταν αιώνιο και είχε ήδη εκφράσει τον σκεπτικισμό του για τη σχετική δημοσίευση που είχε κάνει ο Λεμαίτρ το 1927, στο περιοδικό Science.

«(Ο Λεμαίτρ) κατάλαβε ότι κοιτώντας πίσω στο χρόνο, το σύμπαν θα έπρεπε να βρίσκεται σε μία κατάσταση υψηλής ενεργειακής πυκνότητας, συμπιεσμένο στο επίπεδο ενός πρωταρχικού ατόμου, από το οποίο άρχισαν τα πάντα», αναφέρει το δελτίο Τύπου του αστεροσκοπείου.

Ο επικεφαλής του αστεροσκοπείου του Βατικανού, Γκάι Κονσολμάγκνο, ανέφερε επίσης, σύμφωνα με τον Independent, ότι η θεωρία του Λεμαίτρ αποδεικνύει πως είναι δυνατό να πιστεύεις παράλληλα στον Θεό και στη θεωρία του «Big Bang».

«Ο Λεμαίτρ υπενθύμιζε στους ανθρώπους -συμπεριλαμβανομένου και του Πάπα Πίου ΙΒ΄- πως η δημιουργία του Θεού δεν είναι κάτι που έλαβε χώρα πριν από 13.8 δισεκατομμύρια χρόνια. Είναι κάτι που συμβαίνει συνεχώς».

Επιπλέον, **τόνισε πως με το να πιστεύει κανείς πως ο Θεός απλώς είναι υπεύθυνος για το «Big Bang» είναι σαν να θεωρεί ότι ο Θεός έχει ανθρώπινα χαρακτηριστικά.** Όπως για παράδειγμα ο Δίας που έριχνε κεραυνούς από τον ουρανό, όπως πίστευαν οι αρχαίοι Έλληνες.

«Αυτός δεν είναι ο Θεός στον οποίο εμείς, ως χριστιανοί, πιστεύουμε», πρόσθεσε εξηγώντας πως «πίστευαν σε έναν Θεό με υπερφυσικές δυνάμεις, ο οποίος ήταν υπεύθυνος για τη γέννηση του Σύμπαντος, ενώ η δική μας επιστήμη εξηγεί πως δημιουργήθηκε ο κόσμος».

<https://www.cnn.gr/kosmos/story/80129/o-papas-fragkiskos-proskalese-sto-vatikano-epistimones-se-synedrio-gia-ti-theoria-toy-big-bang>

Τα παρόντα 4 άρθρα σε ένα (εκτυπώσιμο):

https://www.imdleio.gr/diaf/2024/Pope_Francis_Big_Bang_and_Evolution.pdf