



## GOD IS NOT HIDING

The purpose of this week's Gospel Project study is to demonstrate that God reveals Himself through creation – but the lesson poses some hard questions too.

- I. Creation points to God. Psalm 19:1-6.
  - A. Was there **Intelligent Design** or did the universe “just happen?” See Proverbs 16:33.
  - B. Science says that there are over 100 parameters or characteristics in the universe as a whole that must be exactly tuned and set just like they are just for life to exist on earth. These include:
    1. Gravitational force;
    2. The ratio of the number of protons to electrons;
    3. The expansion rate of the universe;
    4. Electromagnetic force; and
    5. The velocity of light).
  - C. Science says that in this solar system, there are additional parameters that must exist for life to occur:
    1. There has to be only one star – the sun. If we had two, the forces from each one would throw our orbit out of whack, and we would die.

2. The size of the sun is just right – if it's too big, we get too hot, and it burns too much. If it's too small, it doesn't support our life.
3. The distance of the earth from the sun is perfect.
4. There is a big planet – Jupiter – does it have a purpose? You bet – it serves as Earth's protector. It is 2 ½ times the size of the other planets combined – because it's so big, its gravitational force draws comets, asteroids, towards it like a moth being lured to a bug light – so they don't hit Earth. Scientific literature says that if it weren't for Jupiter, comets would strike the earth a thousand times more than they do right now.

D. The earth has to have some specific parameters that are “just right” too:

1. The orbital pattern around the sun (a change would produce extreme temperature changes that would make life impossible);
2. The tilt of the earth's axis (the exact tilt keeps the differential in the surface temperature from becoming too extreme);
3. The speed of rotation (keeping temperature changes and wind velocities from becoming too great); and
4. The ratio of oxygen to nitrogen in the earth's atmosphere (life functions would be severely impacted).

E. What are the odds? Dr. Hugh Ross – a renowned astrophysicist, has calculated the odds of having all the necessary parameters of life on one planet. He analyzed just 41 of the 100 parameters that scientists generally agree must exist in the universe for life to exist here on earth, and the probability that each would fall within the range needed to sustain life and creation. Then, after he got each one's probability, he calculated the probability that all these factors 41 factors – remember still not all of them - could occur together, so that he could evaluate the

possibility that a planet could exist capable of supporting life by natural means alone. He concluded:

“the probability of finding, without divine intervention, a single planet capable of supporting [let’s not even think about creating] physical life is MUCH LESS than one in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion..” Hugh Ross, *The Creator and the Cosmos*, (Colorado Springs, CO:NavaPress 2001), 194.

1. That is less than 1 in 1 with over 100 zeros. One in one trillion would be 1 in 1 followed by 12 zeroes.
2. Other probabilities of events in order to demonstrate how astronomical those chances are:

Odds of being struck by lightening in your lifetime:	1 in 6250
Odds of bowling a 300 game:	1 in 11,500
Odds of getting a hole in one:	1 in 5,000
Odds of catching a ball at a major league ballgame:	1 in 563
Odds of finding a four-leaf clover on first try:	1 in 10,000
Odds of striking it rich on Antiques Roadshow:	1 in 60,000
Odds of spotting a UFO today:	1 in 3,000,000

(Source: Funny2.com)

F. Common sense and “irreducible complexity.”

II. What about those who have never heard?

1. God is just (**Genesis 18:25**; **Romans 2:11**).
2. Since all are sinners, God would have been just to send all people to hell but graciously provided salvation through Christ (**Ephesians 2:1-9**).
3. God has put within people a basic awareness of Himself and of the requirement to do right (**Romans 1:19,32**; **2:15**).
4. God has revealed Himself (as eternal, as all-powerful, as good, etc.) to all by means of the created world (**Romans 1:20**).
5. Man willfully can and does ignore that revelation by “suppress[ing] the truth” (**Romans 1:18**); refusing to “honor God” (**Romans 1:21**); choosing to worship idols of men or

beasts instead (**Romans 1:23**); and choosing to ignore God's standard of righteousness (**Romans 1:24-32**).

6. So when God has revealed himself and some have willfully rejected Him, He is fair to judge them.

7. But, God desires that all men be saved (**1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**).

8. God seeks for those who acknowledge their spiritual need and seek Him (**Ezekiel 34:11; Luke 19:10**).

**Ezekiel 34:11** - " 'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

**Luke 19:10** - for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

9. When people are seeking the true God two things happen:

a. God brings the message to them by prompting a Christian to go to them (**Acts 8: 26-35; Acts 16:6-10**).

**Acts 16:9-10** - <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

b. The person hearing the message will respond in faith (**Acts 16:13,14**).