

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

If The "Big Bang" Started Everything, Who Lit The Fuse?

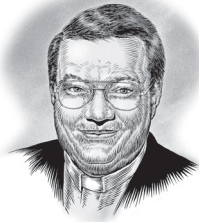
Know This...

God, who had no beginning and will have no end, created the whole universe from nothing. Only God can create something from nothing. Man is incapable of creating anything. We can only make or change something that exists. We are unlike any other creature. We are not angels; and we will not become angels. We are not animals; for we have a physical body and a spiritual soul. Our parents played a role in the creation of our body; but they did not play a role in the creation of our soul. At the moment of conception, God created our soul.



John: God, who gained nothing by creating us, brought everything into existence that we and the angels might share everything with Him in heaven.

James: God created angels before He created man. Angels are spiritual, personal, and immortal creatures. Like man, God created them with intellect and free will.



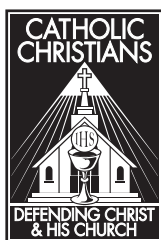
John: Because we have free will, we are capable of making a reasonable choice among several alternatives. God wants us to inform our consciences so we are free to make the right choice.

James: God did not give us a soul that it should be imprisoned in our body; and He did not give us a body that it should be enslaved by our soul.

John: God designed our bodies and souls to work together for His pleasure and greater glory.

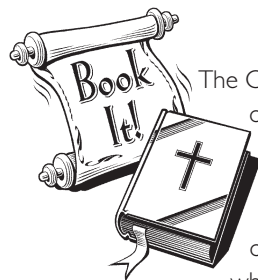
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Jesus confirmed the Biblical story of creation, "From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'" ^{Mt 10:6} After the devil failed to tempt Jesus, the Bible says, "The devil left Him and, behold, angels came and ministered to Him." ^{Mt 4:11} Jesus revealed that guardian angels exist, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." ^{Mt 18:10}

The Catechism begins, "God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in His own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all his strength." St. Athanasius wrote in 350 A.D., "God creates by calling into existence that which did not exist, requiring nothing in order to do it; but men work with some existing material." ^{Letter Concerning the Decrees of the Council of Nicaea} "We believe that God created the world according to His wisdom. It is not the product of any necessity whatever; nor of blind fate or chance. We believe that it proceeds from God's free will; He wanted to make His creatures share in His being, wisdom, and goodness." ^{CCC 295} "Man is rational and therefore like God; he is created with free will and is master over his acts." ^{St Irenaeus, Adv. haeres. 4, 4, 3 (CCC 1730)}



The Old Testament says God created everything out of nothing and we lack the intelligence to fully comprehend and understand our own existence. "I do not know how you came into existence in my womb; it was not I who gave you the breath of life, nor was it I who set in order the elements of which each of you is composed... I beg you, [my] child, to look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things; and in the same way mankind came into existence." ^{2 Mac 7:22, 28} These are the words a devout Jewish mother to her youngest son who is about to be martyred. Like his six brothers before him, he refused the king's order to deny his faith. "God created man in His image; in the divine image He created them; male and female He created them." ^{Gen 1:27} "Worthy are you, Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things; because of your will they came to be and were created." ^{Rev 4:11}

Heavenly, Father; You are great and worthy of praise. Your grandeur is beyond my understanding. Yet, I so want to love You with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. You did not create the heavens and the earth to fulfill something that was missing. You created the world to share Your glory. Through your Son, I pray that I may fulfill Your plan for me. Amen.

