

CHAPTER I

THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Is the Universe infinite and eternal? Have galaxies, stars, and planets existed forever? Or did they have a definite beginning in time and space?

The answers to these questions carry very important religious as well as scientific implications. If the Universe has existed forever, throughout eternity, then there was no beginning. The direct implication is clear: *no beginning implies no creation.*

On the other hand, if the Universe has not been in existence forever, then it must have had a beginning point in time. If it had a beginning, the direct implication is again clear: *there was a creation.*

Some scientists are uncomfortable with the concept of a beginning to the Universe. It conflicts with a basic creed of science which is that every event has a natural cause. According to internationally known astronomer, Robert Jastrow:

They [scientists] believe that every event that takes place in the world can be explained in a rational way as the consequence of some previous event. If there is a religion in science, this statement can be regarded as its main article of faith.¹

The critical point is that if the Universe had a beginning, then the chain of cause and effect terminates. At the point of a beginning, there can be *no discoverable cause! There can only be a creation!* The implications for pure rationalism are awesome.

It is no wonder that secular scientists have resisted the concept of a beginning to the Universe. It has been much more comfortable to accept the age-old argument of Aristotle that matter is eternal.

Therefore, until recently, many scientists believed that the