

theory, our physical bodies are the product of pure energy and star-dust.

How did it begin? What was there before the beginning? From whence came the unbelievable power that created the galaxies, the stars, the planets, and life on the planet Earth? The answer from science is a very simple one: it cannot be determined. And, in fact, science will probably never know, because the scientific evidence, if any, was destroyed in the furnace of creation. In his book, *Cosmos, Earth and Man*, Preston Cloud states that this ultimate question of first causes "transcends the bounds of science."²

SOME IMPORTANT RAMIFICATIONS

Since the time of Aristotle, the conventional wisdom of science has held matter to be eternal. As recently as 1965, many scientists believed in an eternal Universe that had no beginning. However, advances in science and technology have accumulated the following evidence of a beginning:

- The Universe is expanding outward -- it was once compressed to a point beyond imagining.
- Hydrogen is being depleted -- the basic chemical element of matter in the Universe is running out.
- Cosmic radiation permeates the Universe -- such radiation can only be the remnant of the initial explosion.
- The Universe is expanding at a decreasing rate -- it is like a wound-up clock that is running down.

The Big Bang theory is now the accepted theory of origins by most scientists. All evidence points to the *creation* of the Universe at a definite instant in time, in a colossal explosion of dazzling brilliance. *There was a beginning!*

Modern science and Scripture are in agreement that the Universe is not eternal: it had a definite beginning. And there is only one word that aptly describes this beginning: *creation*. In his landmark book, *The Runaway Universe*, Paul Davies writes: "The Universe cannot have existed forever -- there must have been a creation."³

Robert Jastrow echoes this view:

What is the ultimate solution to the origin of the Universe? The answers provided by the astronomers are disconcerting and remarkable. Most remarkable of all is the fact that in science, as in the Bible, the world begins with an act of creation.⁴