

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

WEEK 8 OF 12

Vibrations — Creation Spoken Into Existence

String theory and the Word of God — the central lesson

THE BIG IDEA

String theory's central claim: every particle of matter is, at the bottom, a tiny vibrating string of energy. Different frequencies of vibration produce different particles. The whole universe is, in the most literal physical sense, a sustained song. Genesis 1 records ten times that «*God said.*» Psalm 33:6 says the heavens were made *by the word of the LORD* and *by the breath of his mouth*. John 1 calls Christ the *Logos*, the spoken Word, through whom all things were made. Speech is vibration. The two books are saying the same thing.

This is the central week of the series and the lesson the entire study has been building toward. The user-request that began this series asked for one thing in particular: the biblical theology of *God speaking creation into existence*. Week eight is where the physics most directly meets that theology.

String theory (also called *superstring theory*, *M-theory*, or *unification theory*) is the most ambitious framework in modern physics. Its central claim is breathtakingly simple: if you zoom in close enough on any particle of matter — quark, electron, photon, neutrino — what you find is not a tiny billiard ball but a tiny vibrating *string* of energy, like an impossibly small guitar string. The *frequency* at which a string vibrates determines what kind of particle it is. An electron is a string vibrating one way; a quark is the same string vibrating another way. Change the frequency and you change the identity.

If string theory is correct — and it remains the leading candidate for a unified theory of physics — then the entire physical universe is, at the bottom, **a single vast vibration**. Every atom in your body, every photon carrying this page to your eyes, every star in every galaxy: all of it, sustained vibration. **The universe is, literally, a song.**

Now consider what scripture has been saying since the first page of the Bible.

SCRIPTURE

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Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26 · And God Said...

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

³καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· γενηθήτω φῶς· καὶ ἐγένετο φῶς... ⁶καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· γενηθήτω στερέωμα... ⁹καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· συναχθήτω τὸ ὕδωρ... ¹¹καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· βλαστησάτω ἡ γῆ... ¹⁴καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· γενηθήτωσαν φωστήρες... ²⁰καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· ἐξαγαγέτω τὰ ὕδατα... ²⁴καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· ἐξαγαγέτω ἡ γῆ... ²⁶καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· ποιήσωμεν ἄνθρωπον...

English Standard Version

³And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light... ⁶And God said, 'Let there be an expanse...' ⁹And God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered...' ¹¹And God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation...' ¹⁴And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse...' ²⁰And God said, 'Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures...' ²⁴And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures...' ²⁶Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image...'

Psalms 32:6, 9 LXX (= Ps 33:6, 9) · By the Word of the LORD

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

⁶τῷ λόγῳ τοῦ Κυρίου οἱ οὐρανοὶ ἐστερεώθησαν, καὶ τῷ πνεύματι τοῦ στόματος αὐτοῦ πᾶσα ἡ δύναμις αὐτῶν... ⁹ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπε, καὶ ἐγενήθησαν, αὐτὸς ἐνετείλατο, καὶ ἐκτίσθησαν.

English Standard Version

⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host... ⁹For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

John 1:1–3, 14 · The Word Was God — The Word Became Flesh

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

¹Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. ²οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. ³πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν... ¹⁴Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ.

English Standard Version

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made... ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

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Hebrews 1:3 · Upholding All Things By the Word

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

ὃς ὡς ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης καὶ χαρακτήρ τῆς
ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ, φέρων τε τὰ πάντα τῷ
ῥήματι τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ...

English Standard Version

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the
exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the
universe by the word of his power...

Hebrews 11:3 · The Worlds Framed By the Word

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

πίστει νοοῦμεν κατηρτίσθαι τοὺς αἰῶνας ῥήματι
Θεοῦ, εἰς τὸ μὴ ἐκ φαινομένων τὸ βλεπόμενον
γεγονέναι.

English Standard Version

By faith we understand that the universe was
created by the word of God, so that what is seen
was not made out of things that are visible.

2 Peter 3:5 · By the Word of God the Heavens Existed

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

λανθάνει γὰρ αὐτοὺς τοῦτο θέλοντας, ὅτι
οὐρανοὶ ἦσαν ἔκπαλαι, καὶ γῆ ἐξ ὕδατος καὶ δι'
ὕδατος συνεστῶσα τῷ τοῦ Θεοῦ λόγῳ.

English Standard Version

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the
heavens existed long ago, and the earth was
formed out of water and through water by the
word of God.

Psalms 28:3–4 LXX (= Ps 29:3–4) · The Voice of the LORD Over the Waters

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

³φωνὴ Κυρίου ἐπὶ τῶν ὑδάτων, ὁ Θεὸς τῆς δόξης
ἐβρόντησε, Κύριος ἐπὶ ὑδάτων πολλῶν. ⁴φωνὴ
Κυρίου ἐν ἰσχύϊ, φωνὴ Κυρίου ἐν μεγαλοπρεπείᾳ.

English Standard Version

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God
of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.
⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of
the LORD is full of majesty.

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Job 37:4–6 · God Thunders With His Voice

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

⁴ὀπίσω αὐτοῦ βοήσεται φωνῇ, βροντήσῃ ἐν φωνῇ ὑβρεως αὐτοῦ... ⁵βροντήσῃ ὁ ἰσχυρὸς ἐν φωνῇ αὐτοῦ θαυμάσια· ἐποίησε γὰρ μεγάλα, ἃ οὐκ ᾔδειμεν, ⁶συντάσσω χιόνι· γίνου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς...

English Standard Version

⁴After it his voice roars; he thunders with his majestic voice, and he does not restrain the lightnings when his voice is heard. ⁵God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend. ⁶For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour.

Isaiah 55:11 · My Word Shall Not Return Empty

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

οὕτως ἔσται τὸ ῥήμά μου, ὃ ἂν ἐξέλθῃ ἐκ τοῦ στόματός μου, οὐ μὴ ἀποστραφῇ, ἕως ἂν συντελεσθῇ ὅσα ᾔθελῃσα, καὶ εὐοδώσω τὰς ὁδοὺς σου καὶ τὰ ἐντάλματά μου.

English Standard Version

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

THE BIBLICAL CASE

Sound, Vibration, and the Spoken Word

A spoken word is, physically, a vibration of air molecules produced by vocal cords vibrating at specific frequencies. Sound is vibration. Speech is sound. *Speech is a macroscopic, audible vibration.* String theory says that at the microscopic, inaudible level, every particle of matter is *also* a vibration. The same word — **vibration** — describes both the universe's deepest physical substrate and the way human language exists in air. The continuity is not accidental. Scripture says reality came into being *because God spoke*; modern physics says reality is, at the bottom, a sustained vibration. Nikola Tesla, who built much of the modern world out of insight into vibration, said it bluntly: *«If you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration.»* The convergence with Genesis 1 is, frankly, electrifying.

Cymatics — Where Frequency Becomes Form

Two hundred years ago a German physicist and musician, Ernst Chladni, sprinkled sand on a metal plate and drew a violin bow across its edge. Different frequencies of vibration caused the sand to leap into intricate, perfectly symmetrical geometric patterns — circles, stars, flowers, lattices — each one unique

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to the frequency applied. The field that grew from this is called **cymatics** (from the Greek *k&ymacr;ma*, «wave»). Today you can watch dozens of YouTube demonstrations: pour a non-Newtonian fluid (cornstarch and water) onto a speaker, play a single tone, and the fluid leaps up into three-dimensional moving sculptures. Frequency *shapes matter*. This is laboratory-demonstrable, not theory. Dennis Zetting's point in *A Quantum Case For God* is that if a simple sine wave can sculpt cornstarch into ordered form, the question of what could sculpt the universe by frequency takes on a very different weight. Genesis 1 is a record of one Voice, applying frequency after frequency, until the cosmos took shape.

'The Breath of His Mouth'

Psalm 33:6 pairs *logos* (word) with *pneuma tou stomatos* — *the breath of his mouth*. Breath is the medium of speech; pneuma is the Greek word for breath, wind, and spirit all at once. The verse is making a very specific physical claim about creation: it happened by vocalisation. God breathed; God spoke; the vibration of his speech generated the heavens. Three thousand years later, string theory tells us that *all matter is vibration*. The Psalmist saw it first.

Dabar and Logos — A Word Study

The Hebrew word translated «word» in Genesis 1 (the implicit speech of *vayomer Elohim*, «and God said») is **dabar**. It means *word*, but more broadly it means *utterance*, *speech-act*, or even simply *matter* in the sense of «a thing said or done.» The Greek word the Septuagint translators chose for this in many key passages is **logos** — the same word John 1 uses for Christ. Crucially, *dabar* is not tied to a particular language. Zetting puts the point memorably: «*Just as a guitar or bassoon doesn't speak Russian or English, God's utterances in their purest form are not specific to language as we know it. They are sounds and utterances consisting of particular vibrational patterns and frequencies.*» The biblical vocabulary for divine speech was, all along, the vocabulary of *vibration*. The Hebrew prophets did not have to know about string theory to describe a world in which sound is the deep grammar of being.

The Logos Made Flesh

John 1 takes the doctrine to its highest point. *In the beginning was the Word* — the Word that Genesis records God speaking, the Word by which Psalm 33 says the heavens were made — *and the Word was God*. The Word was not a tool God used; the Word was God himself. Then in verse 14: *and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*. The eternal vibration that holds the universe in being took on a physical body, a vocal cord, a breath, a tongue. The Logos who spoke creation walked into creation to speak again — and what he said calmed storms, raised the dead, and forgave sins. The same Word.

'He Upholds the Universe By the Word of His Power'

Hebrews 1:3 uses a present active participle: *pherôn te ta panta* — *continuously carrying all things*. Creation is not a single past event after which the universe runs on its own; creation is *sustained*, moment by moment, by the ongoing speech of the Logos. If God stopped speaking, the vibration

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would cease, and the universe would simply fall silent — not destroyed by some force, but ceasing to exist for lack of the Word that holds it in being. The fact that you can read this sentence is a fact about a Word currently being spoken.

The Conductor and the Symphony

Zetting closes his chapter on vibration with a question string theorists have been quietly avoiding: *if the universe is a symphony, where is the conductor?* Physicists love the musical analogy when describing strings. A French horn vibrates one way, a guitar another; together they form a symphony. But the analogy has an awkward implication: *instruments do not play themselves*. A piano string at rest is silent. Someone has to pluck it. If physics has discovered that the universe is a cosmic symphony, then physics has discovered — without meaning to — the fingerprints of a Composer. Zetting's words: «*Musical instruments imply the existence of a player that plays the notes. I've racked my brain for another analogy that does not lead to this conclusion. I can't think of one.*» Scripture has named the Conductor for three thousand years. His name is given in John 1:1.

THE CONVERGENCE

The universe is a sustained Word. String theory says all matter is, at the bottom, vibrating strings of energy. Cymatics demonstrates, in any kitchen, that frequencies shape matter into ordered form. Tesla said the secrets of the universe lie in *energy, frequency and vibration*. Scripture says all matter was made by — and is held together by — the Word of God, the *dabar* that is not bound to any human tongue but is itself the vibrational pattern from which creation took form. The two descriptions are not competitors; they are the same description from two angles. The Logos spoke; reality vibrated into being; the Logos continues to speak; reality continues to vibrate. Musical instruments imply a musician; the cosmic symphony implies a Composer. This is the central lesson of the series, the central claim of the gospel, and the central fact about the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it change for you to imagine the universe as a song God is currently singing?
2. Genesis 1 records God speaking ten times in the creation account. Why *speech*, do you think — rather than thought, or simply will?
3. Psalm 33:6 pairs «word» with «breath of his mouth.» What is the significance of pairing these two?

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4. John 1:14 says «the Word became flesh.» If the Word is the principle by which all matter exists, what does it mean that this Word took on matter?
5. Hebrews 1:3 says Christ is *continuously carrying* all things. Sit with that verb for a moment. If he stopped, the universe would stop. How does that change how you walk into the next hour?
6. If you are made in the image of a God who creates by *speech*, what are your own words doing in the world?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, you spoke and the universe vibrated into being. You speak and it is sustained, moment by moment, breath by breath. You spoke the prophets, you spoke the law, you spoke the gospel — and then you spoke your Son, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We marvel that the song you began in Genesis 1 has never stopped. We thank you that we are not noise but music in your singing. Tune our lives to your key. Teach our words to be like your words — honest, life-giving, true, creative. And as your Son sustains the universe with the word of his power, sustain us today in your love. Through Jesus Christ, the Logos in whom we live and move and have our being.
Amen.

Week 8 of 12 — A Quantum Case For God, a Pleasant Springs Church discipleship series. The complete 12-week study, and every other lesson, is at ps-church.com/discipleship/quantum-case-for-god