

A Quantum Case for God

A 15-minute class summary — Pleasant Springs Church, Discipleship School

Full twelve-week series: ps-church.com/discipleship/quantum-case-for-god

Before you start — notes for the teacher (*not read aloud*)

Timing. About **15 minutes**. The bracketed times are cumulative. The **[9:00] dimensions and time section is the designated cut. Never cut the last two sections.**

⚠ **This is the easiest lesson in the library to teach badly**, so read this paragraph twice. The temptation is to say "*science has proved God.*" It has not, it cannot, and a class that hears you claim it will rightly distrust you. The series' own rule — printed on its landing page — is: **"We will not bend the physics to fit the Bible, nor the Bible to fit the physics."** Say that out loud to the class. It is the most important sentence in the lesson.

⚠ **One honest disclosure you must make. String theory is not established science.** It is a mathematically beautiful framework with **no experimental confirmation**, and plenty of working physicists doubt it. The lesson says so. If we build an apologetic on it and it is abandoned in twenty years, we will have taught a generation that their faith rose and fell with a physics fashion. **Resonance is not proof, and we say so twice.**

Who is in the room. Possibly a nurse, an engineer, a science teacher — and certainly somebody who was told as a teenager that they had to choose between faith and science. **That person is who this is for.**

Scripture. All English, ESV. Greek and Septuagint columns are on the website.

Credit it. The series engages **Dennis Zetting**, *A Quantum Case For God* (Quantum Creation Ministries, 2016).

THE SCRIPT

[0:00] Open — the choice nobody should have been given

Somebody in this room was told, probably around fifteen years old, that they had to pick. **Faith over here, science over there. Choose one.**

That is a false choice, and it is a fairly recent one. For most of Western history the people doing the science were doing it *because* they believed a rational God had made an orderly world worth investigating.

The conviction behind this series is old and simple: **God wrote two books** — Scripture, and the creation. **Both are his, so they cannot finally contradict.** When they appear to, either we have misread the natural data or we have misread the text.

Romans 1:20 (ESV) — "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made."

Paul says creation is a witness. Modern physics is simply the most careful listening we have ever done to that witness.

[1:45] Now the rule — before I show you anything

Before a single fact, I want to give you the rule this series operates by, because it is what keeps this honest:

We will not bend the physics to fit the Bible, nor the Bible to fit the physics.

⚠ And here is my promise to you. **I am not going to tell you that science has proved God.** It has not. It cannot — that is not the kind of thing an experiment does. What I am going to show you is a set of **resonances**: places

where what physicists have found in the last hundred years sounds strikingly like what Scripture has said for three thousand.

A resonance is not a proof. It is a reason to keep listening. If you leave here thinking you now have a knockdown argument, I have failed.

[3:15] The thread: God speaks, and reality answers

Here is the single thread that ties all twelve weeks together.

Genesis 1 does not say God assembled, or shaped, or fought. It says he **spoke**.

Genesis 1:3 (ESV) — "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

Ten times in that chapter: *and God said*. And the Psalms make the mechanism explicit:

Psalms 33:6, 9 (ESV) — "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host... For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

By the word. By the breath of his mouth.

Now think about what a spoken word physically *is*. **A word is a vibration** — breath moving air in waves.

And here is the resonance. **String theory proposes that every particle of matter is, at bottom, a vibrating string of energy.** On that account the universe is not fundamentally made of little lumps. It is made of something more like **a sustained vibration**.

⚠ **Now the honesty I promised.** String theory is **not proven**. There is no experiment confirming it, and serious physicists disagree about whether there ever will be. **I am not resting anything on it.** I am telling you that a three-thousand-year-old psalm describing creation as the breath of God's mouth, and a

modern mathematics describing matter as vibration, are **saying compatible things** — and that is worth noticing without being oversold.

And the New Testament names the Word:

John 1:1–3 (ESV) — "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

[6:00] He did not speak and walk away

Here is where it stops being a creation story and becomes a pastoral one.

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV) — "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.**"

Colossians 1:17 (ESV) — "And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.**"

⚠ **Present tense.** Not *made* and left running. **Upholds. Holds together.** Right now.

If the universe is a sustained word, then it is being **spoken continuously** — and the moment the speaking stopped, so would everything. That is not a physics claim. **It is what Hebrews says**, and it means the stability of the floor under your feet is not indifference. **It is attention.**

[7:45] Present everywhere, and knowing everything

Two more resonances, quickly.

Entanglement. Physicists have confirmed that two particles can be correlated in a way that does not care how far apart they are. Whatever the right interpretation turns out to be, **the universe is demonstrably less local than our intuitions.** Now hear David:

Psalm 139:7–8 (ESV) — "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!"

Distance is not a category God is subject to. The physics did not teach us that. But it has made it a great deal harder to call it primitive.

And light. Light has a strange status in physics — it is the speed limit, and from its own frame time does not pass.

1 John 1:5 (ESV) — "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

⚠ Careful here. **That is a metaphor in John and a measurement in physics, and they are not the same claim.** I point at the resonance; I do not weld them together.

[9:00] Dimensions and time — (cut this section first if short on time)

Physics routinely works with more dimensions than the three we move in. Scripture routinely speaks of a real domain we do not see:

2 Corinthians 4:18 (ESV) — "...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

And time itself turns out not to be the fixed backdrop Newton assumed — it stretches and slows. Meanwhile:

2 Peter 3:8 (ESV) — "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

The Bible has always spoken of God as outside time. Physics has made "time is absolute and universal" the harder position to hold, not the easier one.

[11:00] What this does and does not do

Let me now take away the thing you might be tempted to walk out with.

This is not proof. Nobody is coming to faith because of a Calabi–Yau manifold. **And these resonances are not why we believe** — we believe because of a man who was crucified under Pontius Pilate and did not stay dead.

So what is this worth? **Three things.**

One — it removes an obstacle. If you were told you must choose, you were told wrong. **You can put that down.**

Two — it restores wonder. Read Job 38 and then read a physics paper on the first microsecond of the universe. **They are the same posture:** a creature looking at something enormous and being appropriately small.

Job 38:4 (ESV) — "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding."

Three — it should make us humble, not clever.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (ESV) — "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

⚠ **If a study of quantum physics makes you feel that you have God figured out, you have misread both books.**

[13:15] Close

So here is where twelve weeks land.

The deepest description we have of physical reality is **not of stuff sitting there**. It is of something **vibrating, connected, observed, and held**. Scripture's

oldest description of creation is **a voice** — and its claim about right now is that the voice has not stopped.

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) — "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."

By faith we understand. Not by measurement. Faith is doing the understanding — and what it understands is that the visible came from the invisible.

The universe is a sustained Word. And the Word has a name, and a face, and wounds.

Let's pray.

Father, thank you that you made a world worth studying and minds able to study it. Forgive us for the times we have made your people choose between honest science and honest faith. Keep us from overclaiming, and keep us from timidity. And when we have looked as far as instruments can look, let us find that you were speaking the whole time — and that the Word through whom all things were made is the one who came and died for us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

If you only remember three things

1. **Two books, one Author.** Scripture and creation are both God's, so they cannot finally contradict. We bend neither to fit the other.
 2. **He spoke, and he has not stopped.** Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:17 are **present tense** — the universe is being *upheld*, not merely started.
 3. **Resonance is not proof.** String theory is unconfirmed, and none of this is why we believe. It removes an obstacle and restores wonder — that is enough to ask of it.
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The full series — ps-church.com/discipleship/quantum-case-for-god

Twelve weeks engaging **Dennis Zetting**, *A Quantum Case For God* (2016), with Septuagint and ESV side by side.

Weeks	
1–3	The two books · what quantum and string physics actually claim · the Big Bang and "in the beginning"
4–6	Light and omnipresence · wave-particle and hidden reality · entanglement and the body of Christ
7–9	The quantum eraser and omniscience · vibration and a spoken creation · dimensions and heavenly realms
10–12	Time and the eternal God · Genesis reconciled · living in a spoken world

The anchor verse for all twelve weeks is Psalm 33:6, 9.

Discussion starters — if you have time after

1. Were you ever made to feel you had to choose between faith and science? Who told you that?
 2. "We will not bend the physics to fit the Bible, nor the Bible to fit the physics." Which of those two temptations is stronger for you?
 3. Hebrews says Christ **upholds** the universe — present tense. What does that change about an ordinary Tuesday?
 4. Why is it important that we admit string theory is unproven, rather than using it as evidence?
 5. Isaiah 55 says God's thoughts are higher than ours. Does modern physics make that easier or harder to feel?
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