

## Discussion Hints

The current scientific account of the Big Bang seems more 'in tune' with Abrahamic thinking about the creation than, say, Hindu ideas about a cyclic universe. Can science invalidate religion in this way?

Do religions retain the same set of beliefs throughout their history?

What can be the triggers for a religion to form or for some beliefs to change?

What would have to be the case for a religion to be wrong?

Imagine a person who believed that God created the universe only a few thousand years ago, with all the fossils and other geological features in place to make us think that the universe was much older. Is there a scientific argument that could convince them that they were wrong? Is this view philosophically or theologically plausible?

If there are two theories that fully account for all the available evidence, how do you choose between them?

If this were true, what would that tell us about the nature of God?

What other philosophical ideas would follow if this were true?

Is God able to break the laws of nature? Does a miracle require breaking the laws of nature?

Sometimes you hear people say that the birth of a child is a miracle.  
Some people say that every Sunrise is a miracle.

The word 'miracle' is also used to refer to people who were cured of serious illnesses after 'laying on of hands' or similar.

To a Christian, God's primary miracle is the Resurrection.

Are these all miracles? Do they require breaking the laws of nature?

'God has done something cleverer than create a universe, he has created a universe that can make itself.' What do you make of this comment?

In what sense does the universe 'make itself' (think about evolution)?

Do our parents create our life?

If you were a parent, would you want to know exactly how your child was going to turn out from the start?