

# The Future of the Universe – Chance, Chaos, God?

**Arnold Benz**

## Comments

“In this careful and thoughtful book, Professor Benz gives a helpful account of how he holds together with integrity his experience as an astrophysicist and as a Christian believer.”

**John Polkinghorne**

This work will interest scientists and those influenced by the scientific worldview as the honest account of how an astrophysicist relates his scientific and religious experiences. It also develops in a non-authoritarian way models and metaphors which should be helpful to many others in their own explorations.”

**Arthur Peacocke**

“This book offers easy access to scientifically based reflections on the origin and evolution of matter and of life. Readers will find ample stimulation to enrich their own thoughts on their roles in a changing world and will welcome the bridges built by the author between scientific knowledge and the spiritual world.”

**Werner Arber**

Nobel Prize for Physiology and  
Medicine 1978

## Reviews

“Arnold Benz, an astrophysicist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, has spent many years pondering the relationship between faith and science from his perspective as both a Christian believer and a working scientist. Benz begins with the life and death of stars, the development of the universe and the differences between scientific and religious perception. He explores the nature of matter and the universe, and sets this understanding alongside several wellknown images of God. Later, as he delves into the nature of life and death we come to the heart of Benz’s thesis – that there are two different languages at play, the objective language of scientific-historic reason and the participatory language of faith. He sees these as two distinct and separate ways of experiencing reality, and reflects on how they may relate.”

Claire Lofgren, *The Living Church*, January 7, 2001, 9

“Professor Benz’s book is wonderful example of professional science informing a lively, devotional faith.[...] A delightful aspect of the book is Benz’s frequent recourse to personal creative reflection, which is a wonderful thing coming from someone who is so obviously prolific in the enterprise of writing scientific papers.”

Evan Cockshow, *Science & Christian Belief* (2002), Vol. 14,  
No. 1, 84

“In *The Future of the Universe* (2000), astrophysicist Arnold Benz... examines what lies

ahead for the universe and what that may mean to humankind. Benz tackles this subject from both a scientific stance and one of a devout Christian. In spite of the dire cosmological predictions, Benz sees a firm Christological hope."-

*Science and Theology News*, December 2005, Page 37

„A very well balanced and readable treatment of religious issues in the context of astronomy and cosmology.“

*European Society for the Study of Science and Theology*

„Inspiring and creative....I...recommend the book to those looking for some creative and poetic meditations on the Christ event and the evolution of the cosmos and life.“

Eugene E. Selk, *Theological Studies*, March 1, 2001

„Benz is a congenial writer whose explanations of physics and astronomy are easy to understand and which thus offer some degree of physical insight to the theologically but not scientifically inclined.“

Richard Isaacman, *Bridges*, Spring/Summer issue 2001

„Arnold Benz [...] writes knowledgeably (and engagingly) about cosmology, the Big Bang et al...it is a good read and gives a new angle on the science and religion debate.“

*Anvil*, 2002

„This is a thoughtful book that deserves to be in academic libraries.“

Daniel Boice, *Catholic Library World*, December 2001

„For those readers unfamiliar with the basic tenets of the new physics, this book will be a welcome guide.“

*Theological Book Review Feed the Minds*

„In *The Future of the Universe* (2000), astrophysicist Arnold Benz... examines what lies ahead for the universe and what that may mean to humankind. Benz tackles this subject from both a scientific stance and one of a devout Christian. In spite of the dire cosmological predictions, Benz sees a firm Christological hope.“-

*Science and Theology News*, December 2005, Page 37

“Benz tries to presuppose specialized knowledge from his readers. Throughout the book, he relates many fascinating personal observations about how his involvement in science impinges upon his religious experience. The book is full of solid and interesting information about how the universe came to be and where it is going...”

Dan Simon, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*,  
208 (2001)