

# Creation, Cosmology, and the Cosmic Christ:

## Teleological Implications of the Anthropic Cosmological Principle

Russell B. Norris, Jr.

### The Anthropic Principle

One of the great mysteries of life is why there should be Something rather than Nothing! Why are we here? Why is the Universe here? And why is the Universe the way it is—so immense, so ancient, so complex? Christians have traditionally answered those questions with a confession of faith: Because God willed it so. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...” In the beginning, God. And for the eye of faith, that may suffice. For centuries, in fact, it has. Human beings were the center and focus of creation. God created the heavens and the earth for *us*! The Universe was anthropocentric.

Copernicus and Galileo were condemned by the Church not because of their astronomy but because of their anthropology. To argue that the earth is not the center of the Universe implies that *we* are no longer the center of the Universe... that the Universe can get along very well without us... and in fact, that it makes no difference to the Universe whether human beings are here or not!

Modern science begins with the Copernican discovery that human beings do not occupy a privileged place in the universe. This Copernican principle is virtually axiomatic for any scientific investigation; but, like most generalizations, it must be used with care. Although we no longer regard our place in the universe to be special in every aspect, that does not mean it cannot be special in *some* aspects. It was this thought that led Brandon Carter to limit the Copernican assumption by what he called an “Anthropic Principle,” arguing that our position in the universe is privileged in the sense of being compatible with our existence as observers. Certain fundamental features of the universe, such as its age, size, shape, and some of its laws, must be of a kind that allows for the evolution of observers, for otherwise there would be no one to ask questions about its age, size, shape and laws (Carter 1974, 1983)!

Simply put, the Anthropic Cosmological Principle is the self-evident