

Arguments For The Existence Of God

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

- **Beliefs Of Secular Humanists:**

- No God/Supernatural - only naturalism/physical reality.

- The universe is self-existing and was not created.

- Man resulted from continuous evolutionary process. (chance)

- Man is self-sufficient.

- The mind is a physical function of our body only.

- **Argument Beginning With General Revelation Or Natural Theology**

- Romans 1:19,20; Psalms 19:1-4; 8:3,4; Acts 17:24-26; Is. 40:26; Job 26:14

- **Cause And Effect Argument**

- (Cosmological Argument) ("kosmos" means universe)

- Question Of Who Or What? (Cause)(Kalam)**

- + Can something physical come from nothing w/o a cause? NO!

- Nothing causes nothing!

- Nothing has no properties or tendencies toward anything.

- No effect can exist without a cause.

- Psalms 90:2; Isaiah 44:24; 45:12,18

- + Did the universe have a beginning?

- Theories:

- 1. Big Bang (Hubble's red shift/quasars)

- How was initial matter/energy created?

- Evidence of abrupt appearance

- Cambrian explosion (instant complex life)

- 2. Oscillating universe (super ball/hot coffee/entropy)

- 3. Eternal universe/matter

- no actual infinity exists (time/events are finite)

- it is only a concept/not reality

- 2nd Law Of Thermodynamics (entropy)

- Order to disorder

- Things are wearing down. (heat death)

- Psalms 102:25-27; Romans 8:20-22

- + Was the beginning caused?

- (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 3:4,11:3; Ps. 33:6,9; Col. 1:16,17; Job 38:4; 9:4-12;

- Is. 40:26,28; Rom. 4:17b)

- Improbability of chance

“The chance that higher life forms might have emerged through evolutionary process is comparable with the chance a tornado sweeping through a junk yard might assemble a Boeing 747.” Hoyle

Carl Sagan admitted that the chance of man evolving is 1 in 10 to the 2 billionth power.

Morris, Bradley, Shapiro state that, “The chance formation of life (biogenesis) from nonlife (abiogenesis) has been estimated at around 1×10 to the 40,000 power. Thus the probability of life forming anywhere in the cosmos is miniscule”

- Problem of Theistic Evolution or Deism (Did God walk away?)
- + Was the cause personal or impersonal? (Ps. 90:2; Is. 44:24; 45:12)
 - Two kinds of causes: physical cause or personal cause
 - Only a Mind can cause a mind/intelligence. Life from life. (mind/intelligence/information/personality/creativity) (Is. 40:13; Rom. 12:33-36)
 - Evidence of our fine tuned universe (planet Earth). The universe resulted from the free act of a personal agent. A cause must resemble its' effect (or visa-versa) Building/builder, painting/painter, watch/watchmaker
 - Non-physical realities: magnetic fields, gravity, though, personality, values, logic, consciousness, personhood, the soul, morality, free will, moral responsibility) (Things which exist beyond the senses.)
 - “Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned...” Simpson (evolutionist)

Question Of Infinite Regression? (Thomas Aquinas)

- + Is there an infinite regression of finite, dependent beings or is there an Ultimate, Necessary Being who is uncaused, infinite, & self-sufficient? (Acts 17:24-28)
- + Question: Who caused God?
 - God is the Necessary Being not limited to time/space.
 - Problem of the Mormon Heavenly Father. Isaiah 44:8,24; 45:12,18

Question Of Why? (Gottfried Leibniz)

- + Why does anything exist at all? (reason)
- + Why is there something rather than nothing?
- + Why is there purpose/rational thought rather than chaos?
Bertrand Russell (atheist philosopher) *“The universe is just there and that is all... there is no explanation...”*

• The Design Argument: (Teleological Argument)

The universe is arranged in an orderly fashion rather than chaos.

- Order or Pattern or Regularity
 - Sequences (color spectrum/sounds/tastes/textures)
 - Patterns (snowflake, galaxies, atoms, flowers, eye, finger print)

- Purpose or Plan (harmony is beneficial/good)
 - The arrangement of parts and how they work together seem to reflect a desired purpose or plan in the mind of the designer. (pollination, evaporation cycle, plant/animal – Oxygen/CO₂)
 - Parts do not cooperate toward ends unless they were put together by a planner for that end. (mouse trap)
 - The result of this harmony seems beneficial and good.
 - The harmony of movement in the universe is due to laws which came from a rational agent.

- Simplicity (efficiency) and Incredible Complexity (intricate)
 - Unity of Simple and Complex phenomena (grand unifier)
 - Nature usually takes the simplest & most efficient means to achieve an end. (stable chemicals/electrical uniform distribution) (macro to micro)(atom/universe)(the genetic code of DNA)

- Objective Beauty (Yosemite tunnel)
 - Uniqueness of the world
 - Harmony of creation (how things work together)
 - Sense of wonder and amazement (sunset, flowers, stars, life, music)
 - Beauty which is not related to survival or natural selection.
 - Beauty of theories/laws of nature/mathematics

- Information (Intelligent Design)(the genetic code of DNA)
 - Information/meaning only come from a mind/intelligence.

- Constants In Nature (singularities or brute givens)
 - “There is no scientific reason why they are what they are.”
 - “Had the values of these constants been slightly + or - no life would have been possible.” (Moreland)
 - Gravity, mass of a proton, rate of expansion of the big bang, the distribution of material in the universe, the electromagnetic force, balance of matter to antimatter, ratio of carbon to oxygen, earth’s distance from the sun, earth’s rotational speed, earth’s temperature and atmosphere, water forming compounds, available metals and radioactive sources, acceleration velocity, electron charges, etc.

- Anthropic principle “The universe seems to have unfolded with life in mind.” (Isaiah 45:18)

Evidence Within The Bible Of God's Master Design:

Romans 1:19,20

Psalms 8:3,4

Isaiah 40:26, 43:7

Psalms 139:13-16

Psalms 19:1-4

Job 26:7-10,14

Job 9:8-10

Jeremiah 1:5

“The incredible complexity of every living thing offers compelling evidence that life could never have originated by chance processes.”

“Certain features of design in the world are more reasonable given that God exists, than they are without God.”

• Arguments From Mind

Anthropological (moral consciousness/character/mind)

Ontological (ideal)

John Calvin: "No man can survey himself without forthwith turning his thoughts towards the God in whom he lives and moves; because it is perfectly obvious, that the endowments which we possess can not possibly be from ourselves...."

- Key Questions

- + How can intelligence/personality/reason/the capacity to know truth/consciousness - evolve from mindless, irrational matter? Can raw matter think?
- + If my mind is a result of random accidental process, how can I trust my own thoughts?
- + Why should anyone trust in the principle of reason or logic?

Romans 1:18-20 "Men who suppress the truth... Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them... men are without excuse."

- Arguments Against Physicalism/Naturalism:

- + Abstract nonphysical entities do exist. (values, moral laws, logic, truth, memories, thoughts, personal subjective awareness) These things in the mind influence our thought process and future behavior/choices.
- + I am not just the sum of all my parts, I maintain my identity through change because I have, in addition to my body, a soul that remains constant. (2 Cor. 4:16)
- + If there is no constant self (identity), why worry about the future or how can we hold anyone accountable for past actions? If I am just matter, then my actions are not the result of free choice (determinism). How can I be held responsible?

- Arguments For Design In Our Senses and Cognition:

- + "If our own sensory and mental faculties are the result of accidental, non-rational forces, why should we trust that they convey accurate information to us?" (Moreland) That information would have no meaning to us.
- + "Our ability to perceive and think about the world accurately is evidence that these abilities were designed by an intelligent being for such purposes." (Moreland) (basis for science)
- + "It is not clear that the ability to know truth from falsity is necessary to survive." (Moreland) (ex. color blindness)
- + The mind grasps abstract truths which go far beyond what is necessary for survival.
- + We discover non-physical realities: truth, logic, reason, mathematical concepts, theories, and propositions which accurately describe the physical world.
- + This can't be an accident. It must be the result of design.