

Does God Exist?

Introduction. The most momentous and significant question that can occupy the attention of mankind is, "Does God exist?" If we deny His existence we involve ourselves in many insurmountable difficulties. To admit His existence is to acknowledge Him as the greatest of all realities (Acts 17:28; Hebrews 12:9; Isaiah 64:8).

The kingdom of God and His will is the greatest knowledge we can attain to, and is worthy of our best efforts (Jeremiah 9:24; John 17:3). Every Christian should strive for both the knowledge and courage to meet the skeptic (1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3; Philippians 1:17).

There are limitations to our study. The Being and will of God are matters of divine revelation (1 Corinthians 1:21). The Bible does not argue the existence of God; it is a fact recognized from the beginning. To the person who rejects the Bible as a revelation from God, the best we can do is to show that, based on our observations, it is simply more reasonable to believe in God.

I. ***Something Cannot Come From Nothing***

- A. Indisputably, the most universal, and most certain, of all scientific laws is the Law of Cause and Effect, or as it is commonly known, the Law of Causality. Every effect in the Universe had a cause; something or someone has brought the effect about. Every creature, man or animal, came from parent stock, who in turn came from their parents, etc. Kant, in the first edition of *Critique of Pure Reason*, stated that "everything that happens (begins to be) presupposes something which it follows according to a rule." Said another way, nothing comes from nothing!
- B. The Law of Causality is not just important to science. Richard von Mises observed: "We may only add that almost all philosophers regard the Law of Causality as the most important, the most far-reaching, and the most firmly founded of all principles of epistemology" (the philosophical theory of knowledge). This is a principle that is constantly confirmed and never falsified. We never see something coming into being without a cause.
- C. While the Law of Cause and Effect crosses strictly scientific boundaries and impacts all other disciplines as well, the scientific implications it presents are among the most serious ever discovered. Obviously, if every material effect has an adequate antecedent cause, and if the Universe is a material effect, then the Universe had a cause.
 1. Robert Jastrow wrote, "The Universe, and everything that has happened in it since the beginning of time, are a grand effect without a known cause. An effect without a cause? That is not the world of

- science; it is a world of witchcraft, of wild events and the whims of demons, a medieval world that science has tried to banish. As scientists, what are we to make of this picture? I do not know. I would only like to present the evidence for the statement that the Universe, and man himself, originated in a moment when time began.”
2. Furthermore, the effect never is quantitatively greater than, or qualitatively superior to, the cause. For instance, the river did not turn muddy because the frog jumped in; the book did not fall from the table because the fly landed on it; these are not adequate causes. For whatever effects we observe, we must postulate adequate causes.
 3. No matter what theory of origins you ascribe to, you need something transcendent that is beyond that domain in order to explain how the entire domain came into being.
- D. The atheist and the materialist say that matter is eternal, and the Universe was formed and life emerged from an unproven, spontaneous event. But scientists and philosophers alike admit that there is no natural cause sufficient to explain the origin of matter, and thus the Universe.
1. Some years ago, scientists from Great Britain studied the orderly patterns of concentric rocks and holes at Stonehenge. As studies progressed, it became apparent that these patterns had been designed specifically to allow certain astronomical predictions. Many questions surrounding Stonehenge remain unsolved. But one fact is clear: the cause of Stonehenge was intelligent design.
 2. The Stonehenge situation parallels the origin of life. We study life, observe its various functions, contemplate its complexity (which admittedly defies duplication even by intelligent men with the most advanced methodology and technology) -- and what is our conclusion? Theoretically, Stonehenge might have been produced by the erosion of a mountain, or by catastrophic natural forces. But what person with any common sense would ever seriously entertain such a ridiculous idea? Who would believe such a suggestion?
- E. Try as they might, skeptics are unable to circumvent this basic law. The Universe is here. Life, intelligence, and morality in our Universe is here. What is their ultimate cause? Since the effect is never prior to or superior to the cause, then the Cause of life must be both antecedent to, and more powerful than, the Universe -- a living Intelligence that is Itself of a moral nature. While the evolutionist is forced to concede that the Universe is an effect without a known cause, the Christian affirms that God has always existed and that He originated and was the designer and planner of the Universe (Psalm 90:2).

- F. The simple fact is, to quote R.C. Sproul, "Every effect must have a cause. That is true by definition.... It is impossible for something to create itself. The concept of self-creation is a contradiction in terms, a nonsense statement.... Self-creation is irrational."

II. ***The Universe Reveals Design And Purpose***

A. Consider the design and the purpose of the Universe.

1. The Universe is immense.
 - a) The Earth is of tremendous size, but it is a mere speck when compared with the Sun which is a million times bigger.
 - b) The Earth is 93,000,000 miles away from the Sun but Neptune is 2.5 billion miles away. That is more than 30 times the distance of the Earth to the Sun!
 - c) Sirius, the brightest star in the night-time sky, and one of the closest stars to the Earth, is 8.6 light years away. This is amazing when you think that light travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second.
 - d) It takes light about 100,000 years to travel from one end of our galaxy to another. Our galaxy contains 200 to 400 billion stars and there are perhaps a billion more galaxies in our Universe. In fact, if the galaxy were reduced to 80 miles in diameter, our solar system would be a mere 0.08 inches in width!
2. The Universe is incredibly precise.
 - a) There is so much mathematical precision in the movements of stars, planets, and galaxies that scientists can foretell an eclipse of the Sun years in advance (one will occur at 9:13 a.m. on December 14, 2020).
 - b) As the Earth moves in its orbit around the Sun, it departs from a straight line by only 1/9 of an inch every 18 miles. If it departed by an 1/8 of an inch, we would come so close to the sun that we would burn up; if it departed by 1/10 of an inch, we would be so far from the Sun that we would freeze to death.
3. This design and purpose is remarkable even in the minutest detail.
 - a) Men still marvel at the detail and plan of each individual snowflake.
 - b) The smallest cell of an organism is many times more complex than a computer.
4. Our finite minds may find it difficult to comprehend the vastness and complexity of the Universe in which we live, but no person could fail to see design and purpose within it all.

- B. Consider the design and purpose of the human body.
1. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). The longer men study the body, the more they realize it is a masterpiece of intelligent, superhuman planning.
 2. Even when we examine a part of the human body such as the eye, we see an amazingly intricate system.
 - a) The eye is self-focusing and with the same lens can perceive objects in varying distances from a few inches to several miles instantaneously.
 - b) The eye has a self-cleaning mechanism. It has a special fluid built in, keeping it both moist and clean, while the extra fluid passes through a hole in the bone of the nose where it evaporates.
 - c) The eye has a self-adjusting shutter in the iris which expands or contracts yet always maintains a perfect circle, and the pupil contracts automatically if too much light is being let in.
 3. The identical argument on design and purpose can be made concerning every organ of the human body. The heart and vascular system (which has 60,000 miles of blood vessels), nervous system (with 99,422 miles of nerves and nerve endings), and the brain (which can process one million instructions per second and store the equivalent of 500,000 large multi-volume encyclopedias) are all absolute wonders. Modern medicine has tended more and more toward specialization because each part of the human body is an inexhaustible field of study and work.
- C. Consider the design and purpose of plant and animal life.
1. A few examples can illustrate the same principle previously mentioned in regard to our physical bodies.
 - a) The mosquito carries a pair of saws, a pair of lancets, a syringe, and a syphon tucked neatly away in a well-fitting pocket of soft skin in the lower lip.
 - b) The tent caterpillar lays down guide lines as it travels from branch to branch on a tree and then follows those lines back to its nest in the evening.
 - c) Cacti and other plants in arid regions have the capacity to store water during the rainy season to carry them through the dry months.
 2. The great wisdom of God is even demonstrated in the plant and animal kingdoms.
- D. The Universe appears to have been fine-tuned for the existence of intelligent life with a complexity and precision that literally defies human comprehension. All science is predicated upon the proposition that the

visible Universe is able to be understood. It is built on laws that can be observed and cataloged (Hebrews 3:4).

1. Since the Universe is run by laws, there is a Lawgiver.
2. Since the Universe operates on mathematical principles, there is a Mathematician.
3. Since the Universe is a masterpiece of engineering skill, there is an Engineer.

III. ***Man Possesses A Unique Nature***

- A. Man possesses characteristics and faculties that are not only unknown to animal life, but could not have been the result of a gradual development from the animal kingdom. We are therefore faced with two choices as to how to account for man's existence and nature.
 1. Man was created by God (Genesis 2:7).
 2. Man is the product of evolution (Isaiah 29:16).
- B. Why we reject evolution as the answer to man's existence and nature.
 1. It is an unproved theory.
 - a) There is a difference between science (a body of absolute knowledge) and the theories of men in the field of science.
 - (1) Stedman's Medical Dictionary defines a theory as: "a reasoned explanation of the manner in which something occurs, lacking absolute proof."
 - (2) The definition given by scientists for scientists defines a theory as: "similar to a hypothesis but usually wider in scope. Explanatory theories for sets of phenomena are developed by observation and experimentation."
 - b) Evolutionists dogmatically assert that evolution is a fact, yet they admit that it is far from perfect.
 - (1) "At the same time I think that the attempt to explain all living forms in terms of evolution from a unique source ... is premature and not satisfactorily supported by present-day evidence" (Dr. G. A. Kerkut).
 - (2) "What was the ultimate origin of man?... Unfortunately, any answers which can at present be given to these questions are based on indirect evidence and thus are largely conjectural" (W. LeGros Clark).
 - (3) "The modern Darwinian palaeontologists are obliged, just like their predecessors and like Darwin, to water down the facts with subsidiary hypotheses which, however plausible, are in the nature of things unverifiable" (W. R. Thompson).
 - (4) "There is no doubt that both the historical and the causal aspects of the evolutionary process are far from completely known.... The causes which have brought about the devel-

opment of the human species can be only dimly discerned" (Theodosius Dobzhansky).

- (5) "On the other hand, it does appear to me that Darwin in the Origin was not able to produce palaeontological evidence sufficient to prove his views but that the evidence he did produce was adverse to them; and I may note that the position is not notably different today" (W. R. Thompson).
2. It does not account for the origin of man.
 - a) If all of the accounts of development within various species are granted, that still does not explain the origin of life.
 - b) Dr. John Coulter said, "The study of evolution has nothing to say concerning origins. When one goes beyond the observed changes and tries to trace the successions back to their source, he is in the region of speculation and outside the boundaries of science."
3. Not only does it have no proof for the beginning of life but most of the "link" from simple organism to complex human is missing.
 - a) The real issue with evolutionists is whether there has been "transmutation," the crossing of the line between animal and man.
 - b) Ironically, there are fewer examples of evolutionary transition now than in Darwin's time. The classic cases of Darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the North American horse, have had to be modified or discarded as a result of more detailed information. What appeared to be a nice simple progression when relatively little data was available now appears to be much more complex and less gradualistic. In short, it agrees more with the Genesis account!
 - c) Contrary to the impression given by evolutionary books and magazines, evidence of transition is rare and limited to variation within kinds. Gaylord Simpson, in 1944, wrote, "This regular absence of transitional forms is not confined to mammals, but is an almost universal phenomenon, as has long been noted by paleontologists. It is true of almost all orders of all classes of animals, both vertebrate and invertebrate."
4. It fails to account for the characteristics man possesses which are completely unknown to animals.
 - a) Man has the capacity for rational thought.
 - b) Man has a conscience and a sense of morals.
 - c) Man has an appreciation for art and beauty.
 - d) Man has religious thought and inclinations.
 - e) All of these marks of personality in man prove two points.

- (1) Man was created in the image of God with the same qualities of God. We have intellect, a moral sense, and free will that could not be the product of "resident forces" in the material Universe.
- (2) There is something in man that is not material. Although our bodies renew themselves through cellular reproduction, our personality, memory, intellect, and moral consciousness do not change.

Conclusion. Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." This is true because he must deny his own nature and relegate himself to the level of animals. He must also close his mind to all the evidence God has placed in His creation (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:18-22). We are unequipped to make such a declaration and incapable of proving it. To make such a declaration, one has to possess the qualities of God!

Agnosticism is unworthy of our notice, for agnostics freely admit, "We do not know." Why give up a faith that is meaningful, a moral standard that is uplifting, a hope that sustains us in the trials and sorrows of life, and the fellowship of the finest people on earth when the best alternative is, "I don't know"?

This leaves the belief that God exists. It is the most reasonable explanation for the order, design, and purpose of the Universe. It is also the most reasonable explanation for the origin and personality of man (Psalm 104:24; Isaiah 40:25-26; Nehemiah 9:6).