

Apologetics 101

Defending the Faith

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)***

How Would You Respond?

1. How do you know what you believe is true?
2. How do you know God exists – what proof is there?
3. How can we trust the Bible that was written thousands of years ago?
4. How do we know other religious creeds are not true?
5. Why isn't God more visible if He wants everyone to know him?
6. Hasn't Science (i.e., Evolution, Anthropology, Geology) completely disproved biblical creation?
7. How can there be a loving God with so much suffering in the world?
8. How do we know the Resurrection occurred?

WHAT IS TRUTH ?

TRUTH IS...

I have my Truth & You have yours.

Truth is what corresponds to reality.

Consider the Law of Gravity

"You can't handle the Truth!"



Religion = belief about reality
There's only 1 reality



Many different beliefs
They're either true or false

Primary Apologetical Arguments

1. **It is true that God exists**
 - a. Cosmological argument
 - b. Teleological or Design argument
 - i. What about evolution?
 - c. Moral argument
 - i. If God exists, how do you explain evil and suffering in the world?

2. **It is true that Jesus is (the Son of) God**
 - a. If God exists, then miracles are possible
 - i. Miracles are acts of God to confirm a message from God
 - b. The NT is an historically accurate record of actual miracles
 - i. There is early evidence for the NT
 - ii. There is eyewitness evidence for the NT
 - iii. There is good evidence the NT writers told the truth
 - iv. There is good evidence for Jesus' resurrection
 - c. Prophecy, miracles, and His resurrection confirm Jesus' claim to be God

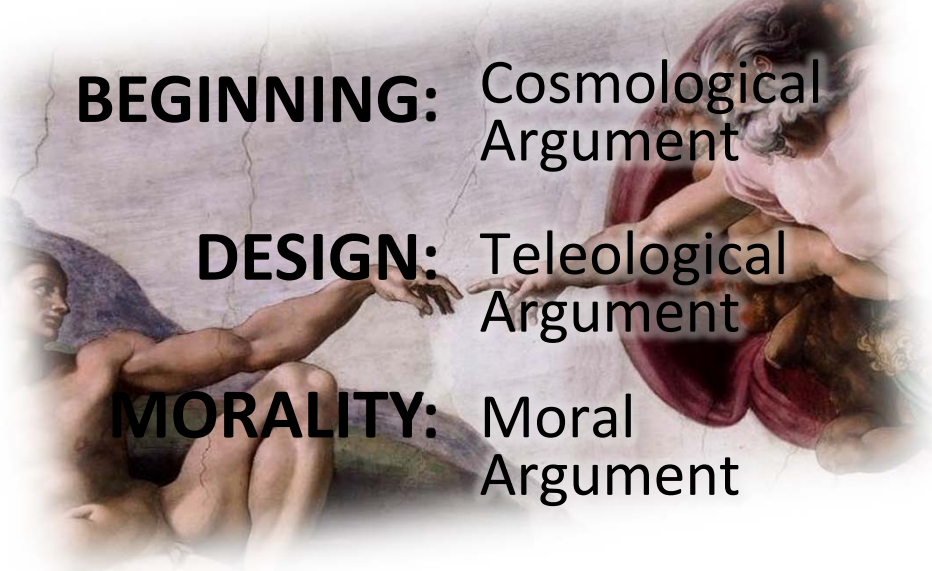
3. **The entire Bible is true**
 - a. If Jesus is God, then what He says is true
 - b. Jesus said the entire Bible is from God
 - c. Therefore, the entire Bible is true

THREE GREAT ARGUMENTS for a theistic God

BEGINNING: Cosmological Argument

DESIGN: Teleological Argument

MORALITY: Moral Argument



Cosmological Argument

**#1. Whatever has a beginning,
must have a cause.**

#2. The universe had a beginning.

**#3. Therefore, the universe had a
cause.**

#1. Whatever has a beginning, must have a cause.

- this “Law of Causality” has been very well established by reason and evidence
- one of the very fundamental principles of science is that things don’t begin/happen without a cause
- if things happened without a cause, science itself would be impossible (science IS a search for causes)

#2. The universe had a beginning.

- 100 years ago scientists believed the universe was eternal (Steady State Theory)
- Atheists understood this supported their position...
- for if the universe was eternal, it didn't need a cause, it was self-existent

The Bible Says that TIME had a beginning

We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. (1 Corinthians 2:7)

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Timothy 1:9)

The hope of eternal life, which God... promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2)

To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 1:25)

Nobel Prize Winners State: the beginning is Biblical

Arno Penzias – *“The best data we have (concerning the Big Bang) are exactly what I would have predicted had I had nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms and the Bible as a whole.”*

Robert Wilson – *“Certainly there was something that set it all off... I can’t think of a better theory of the origin of the universe to match Genesis.”*

George Smoot – *“There is no doubt that a parallel exists between the big bang as an event and the Christian notion of creation from nothing.”*

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE LEADS to the Biblical account of creation



Robert Jastrow
Founder of NASA's Goddard
Institute of Space Studies

“...astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world... the essential element in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis is the same.”

(Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 14)



The bottom line from
Dr. Robert Jastrow,
agnostic astronomer
and founder of Goddard
Institute for Space Studies:

"For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; He is about to conquer the highest peak; As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries." - (Jastrow, God and the Astronomers, 116)

"Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. . . that there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact." (Agnostic Astronomer Robert Jastrow)

IF THE UNIVERSE HAD A BEGINNING

then it must have had a Beginner

The evidence leaves us with the following two options:

1. The universe was uncaused (it's always existed)

OR

2. The universe was caused by something else outside the universe – a FIRST CAUSE

Then what caused God?

- Everything that has a BEGINNING has a cause
- There must be one thing without a beginning/cause (Aristotle's unmoved mover, an uncaused cause)
- Scientists know this, that's why they held so strongly to a belief in an eternal universe
- They knew that IF the universe was eternal, then it needed no cause!

This first cause must be...

- #1. Self existent, timeless, non-spatial, and immaterial
- #2. Unimaginably powerful to create the universe out of ABSOLUTE nothing
- #3. Supremely intelligent to design the universe with incredible precision
- #4. Personal in order to choose to convert a state of nothingness into the universe (an impersonal force has no ability to make choices)

Teleological Argument

#1. Every design has a designer.

#2. The universe and life both have design.

#3. Therefore, the universe and life have a designer.

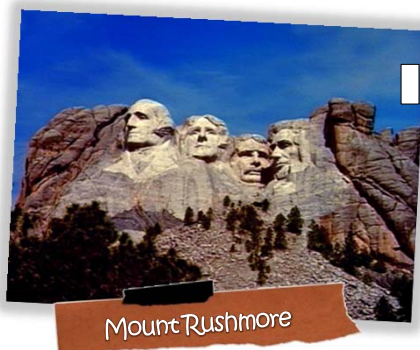
How do we detect design?

The key evidence for design is “specified complexity”

- Complex = multiple “pieces”
- Specified = non-random arrangement
- Information is one of the best examples of “specified complexity”



TWO TYPES OF CAUSES



Non-Intelligent



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Two Fundamental Design Questions

Who/what designed...

1. The universe ?

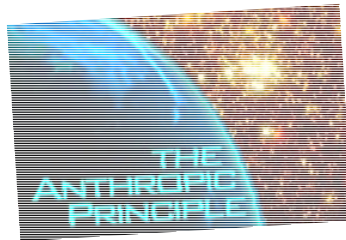


2. Life ?



Arno Penzias

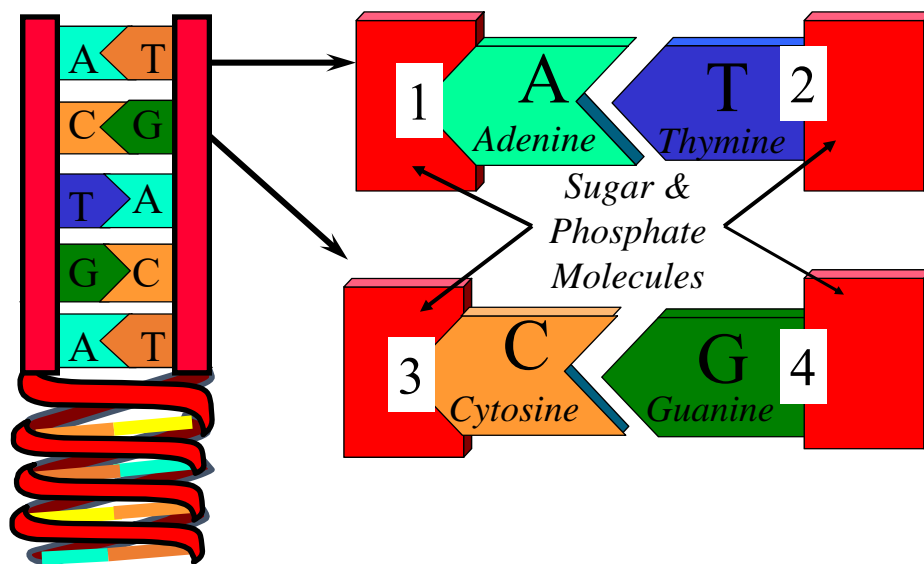
(physicist who won Nobel Prize for discovering background radiation from the big bang)



Anthropic Principle:
the universe has been
fine-tuned for human
existence.

“Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly-improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan.”

DNA's FOUR LETTER genetic alphabet



WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THE GENETIC CODE?

“DNA is a like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”

Bill Gates

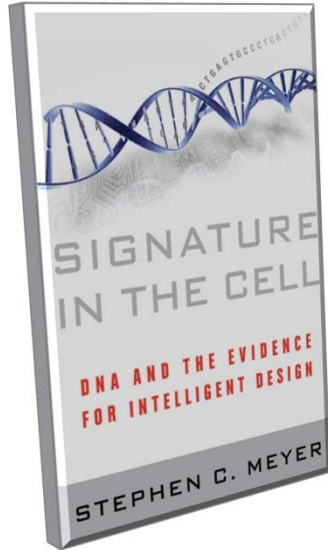


FIRST LIFE REQUIRES an intelligent cause



Equal to 1,000 Volumes of an Encyclopedia!

Messages Come from Minds Not Natural Laws



“Our uniform experience affirms that specified information-whether inscribed hieroglyphics, written in a book, encoded in a radio signal, or produced in a simulation experiment-always arises from an intelligent source, from a mind and not a strictly material process.”
(p. 347)

Teleological Argument

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What is Most Reasonable?

The Origin of Life



Theists try to support why it's more likely that the design in life arose by intelligence.

Atheists try to support why it's more likely that the design in life arose by natural forces.

ATHEIST RICHARD DAWKINS

author of "The God Delusion"

- Agrees that the "appearance of design is overwhelming."
- But argues that evolution provides an explanation for that "appearance"
- Scientists agree however that evolution only explains changes in species, not the creation of new species.



Evolution Explains a lot of Diversity

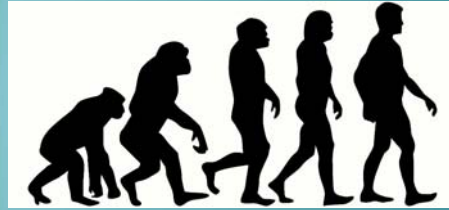
Micro

It leads to a lot of differences
within a species.



Macro

But it can't create
a new species.



Teleological Argument

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THREE GREAT ARGUMENTS for a theistic God

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DESIGN: Teleological Argument

 **MORALITY:** Moral Argument

Moral Argument

#1. There is an objective moral law.

#2. An objective law must have an objective source (a law giver).

#3. Therefore, there is a moral law Giver.

Moral Argument

Premise 1: If God does not exist, then objective moral values and duties do not exist.

Premise 2: Objective moral values and duties do exist.

Conclusion: Therefore, God exists.

If There is no Objective Morality...

1. Serial killers do nothing wrong
2. Love is no better than hate
3. Freedom is no better than slavery
4. Tolerance is no better than intolerance
5. Religious crusades were not wrong
6. Terrorism is not wrong
7. Racism is not wrong

WE ARE NOT SAYING

- Atheists Can't Be Moral – They Can
- Atheists Don't *Know* Morality – They Do

WE ARE SAYING

- Atheists can't *justify the existence* of morality. They can theorize about how we know murder is wrong, but atheism provides no immaterial objective standard that establishes why murder is wrong.
- An immaterial objective standard of justice requires a theistic God.

Evil Requires Good

Good Requires God



C.S. Lewis

"{As an atheist} my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"

Straight Line = Standard

We also know we break it...



Human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, they know that they do not in fact behave that way. They know the Law of Nature; and they know they break it.

from these 3 arguments we know the

THE FIRST CAUSE

COSMOLOGICAL: The Beginning

- Is Immaterial, Timeless, & Spaceless
- Is Extremely Powerful (He created out of nothing.)

TELEOLOGICAL: Design

- Is Extremely Intelligent
- Has Purpose

MORAL: Morality

- Is Absolutely Morally Perfect
- Is Personal

*This is the God of Biblical Christianity
(identified without reference to the Bible)*

