

Defending *your* Faith

Life-Changing Truth in a Skeptical World



DOES GOD EXIST?

How can we know that God is real?

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Has God created man? Or has man created God?

4 Arguments for the Existence of God

01

Reason

02

Science

03

Morality

04

Authority



01

An Argument from
REASON

The Cosmological Argument

How the Argument Works

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause .
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause .



1. Whatever Begins to Exist has a Cause.

- Something cannot come from nothing.
- If things can exist from nothing, then we would expect to see things “pop up” into existence out of nothing.
- This is our common and universal experience!
 - With man - made and natural objects.

2. The Universe Began to Exist.

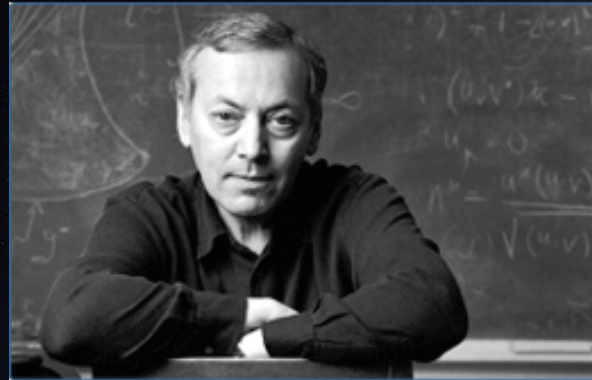
Most astrophysicists agree that the universe began to exist at some point in time. Why?

- 2nd law of thermodynamics – A closed system tends towards increasing disorder (the universe is running out of usable energy).
 - Example of a wind - up car.
 - Robert Jastrow – argued that the “Big Bang” was evidence for the beginning of the universe.

2. The Universe Began to Exist.

“Scientists can no longer hide behind a past - eternal universe. There is no escape, they have to face the problem of a cosmic beginning.”

- Alexander Vilenkin

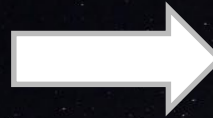


3. Therefore, the Universe has a Cause.

- The universe cannot cause itself, so there must be a cause outside of the universe.

Its cause must be:

- Space - less
- Eternal
- Immaterial



GOD

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02

An Argument from
SCIENCE

The Teleological Argument

THE UNIVERSE IS FINE-TUNED

This is either due to chance, or design.



The Fine-Tuning of the Universe

Anthropic Principles

1. Our solar system's location in the galaxy
2. Earth's location in our solar system
3. The color of our sun
4. The size of the moon
5. Oxygen in the atmosphere
6. Earth's reflectivity
7. Earth's magnetic field
8. Land
9. Water

Cosmic Constants

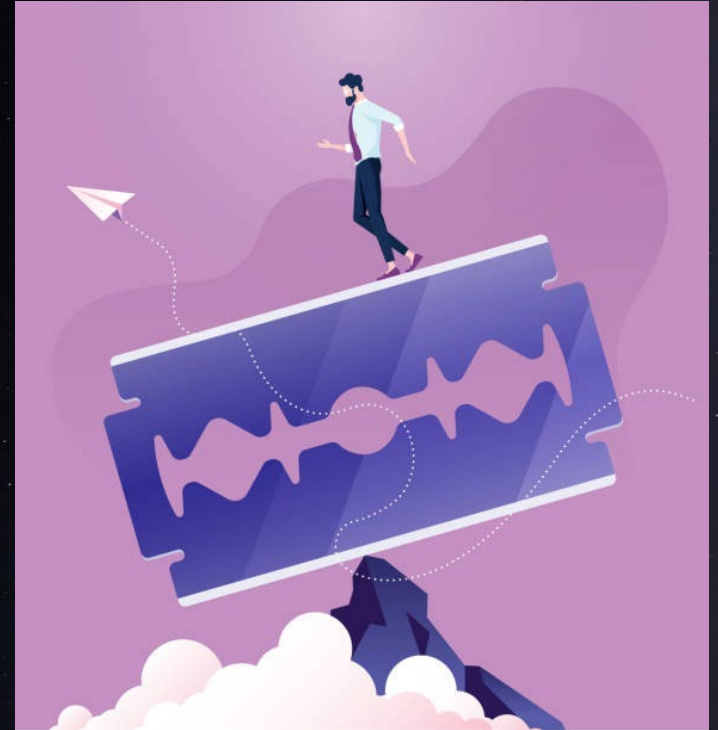
1. Expansion rate of the universe
2. Gravitational constant
3. Solar luminosity
4. Mass density
5. Weak nuclear force
6. Strong nuclear force
7. Ratio of protons to electrons
8. Electromagnetic constant
9. Entropy in the universe
10. The speed of light

Overall, there are 122 known fine - tuned principles & constants!

The Fine-Tuning of the Universe



The Fine-Tuning of the Universe



The Fine-Tuning of the Universe

“Wherever physicists look, they see examples of fine tuning.”

- *Sir Martin Rees (Astronomer Royal of Great Britain & Professor of Astrophysics at Cambridge)*

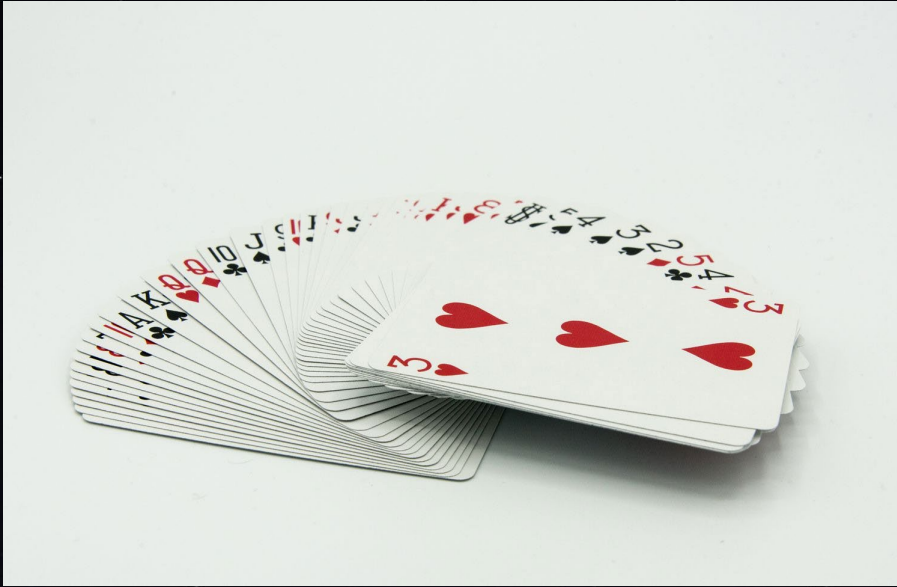
“The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life.”

- *Stephen Hawking (Theoretical Physicist and Cosmologist)*

“There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all..it seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature’s numbers to make the universe. The impression of design is overwhelming.”

- *Paul Davies (English Physicist)*

Playing the Odds



= 1/52 odds

“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.”

- Robert Jastrow (NASA Astronomer and Scientist)



The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Psalm 19:1-2



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An Argument from
MORALITY

How the Argument Works

1. If God does not exist, then objective good and evil does not exist.
2. Objective good and evil does exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.



If God doesn't Exist...

- There's no ultimate purpose in life
- There's no ultimate meaning in life
- There's no ultimate justice
- We're accidents
- There's no standard for morality
- There's no such thing as good and evil

1.If God does not exist, then objective good and evil does not exist.

- Objective = independent of people's opinions
- If atheism is true, then humans are just material beings; we're just animals. Animals clearly have no moral obligation to one another.
- On atheism, the concept of morality can come from "social construct."
 - "There's nothing actually right or wrong, we're just trained to think that way."

2. Objective Good and Evil does Exist.

- Common experience
 - Should people take things that don't belong to them?
 - Should women have rights in all cultures?
 - Would it be okay to torture people of other ethnicities?
 - Is it wrong to sexually abuse children?
 - Is terrorism wrong?
- Universal Experience
 - Everyone makes moral statements all the time.

Verdict = God does Exist

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An Argument from
AUTHORITY

Arguing from Authority

A: It's going to be 60 degrees and sunny tomorrow.

B: Why would you say that?

A: The weatherman said it on the news today.

A: Phil Lynn snores.

B: Why would you say that?

A: Because Becky told me so.

The Authority of Jesus Christ



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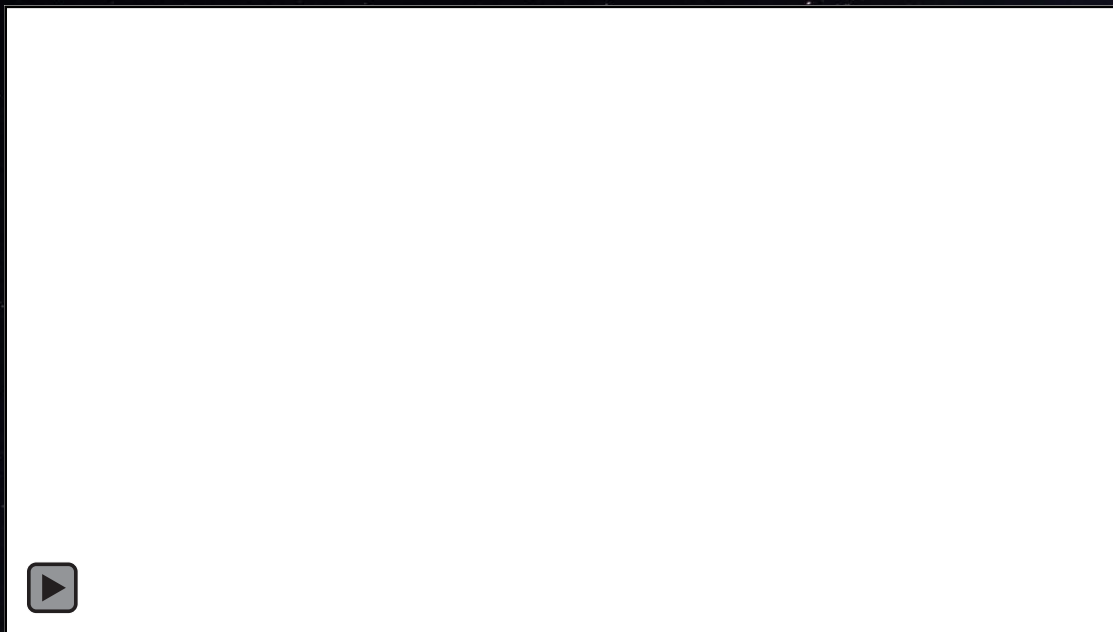
Authority



WHAT'S AT STAKE


Has God created man? Or has man created God?

Apollo 8



For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:19-20

A silhouette of a person holding a flashlight, illuminating the night sky with a beam of light. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a horizon line showing silhouettes of trees and a person holding a flashlight.