

GOD'S EXISTENCE AND NAMES

The Existence of God

- There is only one God, "the only true God" (John 17: 1-5) "In the beginning " (Gen 1:1)
- The Bible does not begin with human reason or rationalistic arguments
- The Bible begins with the foundational presupposition that God exists
- Theology is rightly derived from God's own inspired, inerrant Word, which is God's testimony about himself.

Scriptural Assertions

- God's own inspired testimony (2 Tim. 3:16) God's testimony perfectly reliable.
- Our first requirement is to believe that He exists. (Heb.11:6)
- What about those who reject God's existence. (Ps. 14:1; 53:1; 10:4)
- The Bible states God is eternal (Deut. 33:27) without beginning, without end (Ps.90:2)
- Moses asks God His name (Ex. 3:14) "I AM WHO I AM" God from whom all existence derives. As Paul says, "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17: 28)
- Romans 11:36 says, "From him and through him and to him are all things"
- God exists, has life in himself, and is the source of all existence and life (Acts 17:24-28)

God's Sufficient Knowability

- The Bible affirms that God can be known, even in a personal relationship. (John 17: 3)
- God had a relationship with Adam and Eve, and spoke directly with Moses, and God had Moses then speak for him to Pharaoh in Exodus 3 and 4.
- God was personally present in the tabernacle where he communed with Israel (Ex. 25:8)
- God indwells the church as well as the individual believer. (1 Cor.3:16; Eph.3:14-19)

God's Incomprehensibility

- While God can be known truly, he can never be known comprehensively. Humans are limited by time and space and corrupted by sin. (Rom.7:15-23)
- God is infinite. (1 Tim. 1:15-17; Ps. 147:5) Man is rebellious toward God. (2 Cor. 4: 1-6)
- Man cannot see God and live. (Ex. 33:20) God dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16) God's spiritual form is not revealed to man. (Deut. 4:12-15) (1 Cor. 2:11)
- King David cannot comprehend the wonder of God. (Ps. 139:1-7) Page 88 last Paragraph

Natural Proofs

- Belief in God's existence must be grounded in Scripture, for it is the sole infallible witness to God's mind. All other evidence for God must be subordinate to scripture.
- God can be seen in creation, in the human conscience, and in history. (Acts 14:17)
- John Calvin compared Scripture with spectacles that give people a clear manifestation of the true God.

The Ontological Argument

- An argument that begins with existence. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) argued that we can think of something absolutely perfect. An absolutely perfect thing must necessarily exist, and that absolutely perfect thing is God. Read the paragraph Page 89.

The Cosmological Argument

- Another natural proof that argues from the created realm to an Ultimate Cause for it all, every effect must have a cause. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) wrote of his proofs for the existence of God.
- Aquinas taught that there cannot be an infinite regress of causes, so there must be an “unmoved mover” a First Way. There must be an original and absolute “necessary being” the Second Way. And a being sufficient to produce all created things, the Third Way. Anselm concluded that the Unmoved Mover, the First Cause and the necessary being is God.
- Other philosophers throughout history have used the same argument but it did not lead them to the God of the Bible.

The Teleological Argument

- An argument from design. The complex order, design, purpose, and intelligence in the universe is a result of the work of an intelligent, purposeful designer who is God.
- While this is a sound argument many unbelievers have made this argument but sadly it did not lead them to the One True God.

The Moral Argument

- Man's conscience and moral values imply a moral creator as the source of man's values.
- This ultimate being must be the cause of all perfections, goodness, morality, etc.
- Aquinas said this ultimate being we call God.
- In summary these natural proofs represent a theology based on man's reason and do not necessarily lead to the triune God of the Bible.

The Names of God

- Yahweh–Jehovah–LORD– Exodus 3:13-15 “I AM WHO I AM” and “I AM” “LORD” (Yahweh) is my name forever. Yahweh was derived from the Hebrew verb for being (hayah), the basic meaning is “he is” or “he will be.” The most common name for God, used over 6,800 times in Scripture. In sum, the name Yahweh means that God is, that he is eternal, simple, self-existent, and present at every event in time.
- Yahweh-tsabaoth, God is the Lord of hosts or armies. He leads the armies of heaven. (Isa.6:1-5)
- Yahweh-yireh, God is “The Lord who will provide. (Gen.22:14) God provided a ram
- Yahweh-nissi, God is “The Lord Is My Banner” Moses worshiped God as the One who gave his people victory over Amalek. (Ex.17:15)
- Yahweh-shalom, God is “The Lord Is Peace” (Judg. 6:24) God gave Gideon 40 years of peace after he was used of God to defeat the Midianites.
- Yahweh-roiy, God is the Lord is my shepherd” (Ps. 23:1) God leads and protects his people.
- Yahweh-tsidkenu, God is “the Lord our righteousness” (Jer23:5-6) God will execute justice and righteousness in the land
- El, Eloah, and Elohim- God's supreme power, strength, and might – When depicting the true God, el is used
- El Shaddai – Almighty, Omnipotent, Provider - (Gen.17:1) The Abrahamic Covenant
- El Elyon – God Most High – The supreme sovereignty of God (Gen. 14: 18-23)
- El/Elohey Olam – The Everlasting God (Gen. 21:33)
- ADONAI - LORD - When used of the true God it indicates that he possesses supreme sovereignty and ultimate authority over all things external to himself.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6 – And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.