

God Exists

The second premise in our overall argument for the Bible being the Word of God is “God exists”. For if there is no God, there cannot be acts of God (miracles), a Son of God (Jesus), nor a Word of God (Bible).

I. The Existence of God (Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:22-34)

A. Cosmological Argument (reasons from *effect* to a *First Cause*)

1. Whatever begins to exist has been caused by another (every effect has a cause)
2. The universe began to exist (the universe is an effect)
3. Therefore, the universe was caused to exist by another (the universe had a cause)

Analyze each premise in the argument:

1. Whatever begins to exist has been caused by another

Only 3 options to explain how the universe came to exist:

- a.
- b.
- c.

2. The Universe began to Exist¹ (provide evidence!)

Expanding Universe: Edwin Hubble discovered the Expanding Universe in 1929, which shows that galaxies are moving away from each other at high rates of speed. Logically and mathematically, if one would reverse the expansion it would eventually reach infinite density (i.e. nothing).² It shows the universe had a beginning and has not been eternally expanding.

Big Bang: “The universe began from a state of infinite density. . . Space and time were created in that event and so was all matter in the universe.” (J. Richard Gott III, James Gunn, David Schramm, and Beatrice Tinsley, “Will the Universe Expand Forever?” *Scientific American*, March 1976, 65).

¹ For an elaboration of scientific evidence see Fred Hereen, *Show Me God*.

² Scientist, Hugh Ross, and Alan Guth, say that “if the expansion rate [of the universe] were slightly slower, the whole universe would have recollapsed before any solar type stars could have settled into a stable burning phase. If the universe were expanding slightly more rapidly, no galaxies (and hence no stars) would have condensed from the general expansion. How critical is this expansion rate? According to Guth, it must be fine-tuned to an accuracy of one part in 10 to the 55th power” (that is, 10 with 55 zeroes following!), (see Ross, Hugh, *The Fingerprint of God* (Orange, CA: Promise Publishing, 1991), 124.

Atheist Anthony Kenny asserts: “According to the Big Bang Theory, the whole matter of the universe began to exist at a particular time in the remote past. A proponent of such a theory, at least if he is an atheist, must believe *that the matter of the universe came from nothing by nothing.*”

Fireball radiation: Jastrow says, “No explanation other than the Big Bang has been found for the fireball radiation. The clincher, which has convinced almost the last doubting Thomas, is that the radiation discovered by Penzias and Wilson has exactly the pattern of wavelengths expected for the light and the heat produced in a great explosion. At the present time, the Big Bang Theory has no competitors.” (*God and the Astronomers*, 1978, p.15)

Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE): In 1989, NASA launched the COBE satellite in order to validate the fireball radiation Penzias and Wilson had discovered. If the universe had a beginning, scientist should expect to see ripples (or variations) in the temperature of the radiation. These “ripples” would allow galaxies to form by providing an environment for matter to congregate due to gravitational force. In 1992, when director George Smoot announced the COBE findings, said “If you’re religious, it’s like looking at God.” COBE photography discovered the following which is consistent with a universe that had a beginning:

1. Ripples needed for galaxies to form (universe not eternal)
2. The ripples were precisely tuned (one part in 100,000) to allow just enough matter to form galaxies. Any difference in precision none of the galaxies would have formed.³

Robert Jastrow says, “Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy. Some scientists are unhappy with the idea that the world began in this way.”⁴

Second Law of Thermodynamics: States “that the amount of usable energy in a closed system is running down.” The scientific name for this process is called “entropy.” If the universe was infinite, the earth would never run out of energy and be at a state of equilibrium. An infinite universe would have an infinite amount of usable energy, but our earth is running out of usable energy.

³ For more information on the COBE findings see lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/product/cobe/

⁴ Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers* (New York: Norton, 1978), 14.

Psalms 102:25-27 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish but You will endure; Yes, they will grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end. (cf. Hebrews 1:10-12). The Bible is consistent with the 2nd law of thermodynamics.

The First Law of Thermodynamics - Many often use the First Law of Thermodynamics which says “Actual Energy is neither *created* nor *destroyed*, it remains constant” to prove an infinite universe. The law should be stated more accurately as “the amount of actual energy in the universe remains constant *so far as we can observe*.” This revised statement is now based on *observation* and not *philosophy* since it now makes no pronouncement of whether something can come to be and cease to be. (philosophy vs. science)

General Theory of Relativity: Einstein’s theory provides another piece of evidence demonstrating the universe had a beginning. It reveals that time, space, and matter must have had a beginning, since they are correlative, meaning they cannot exist alone, each must be present (exist) simultaneously. Thus, if matter came into being from nothing, so did time and space, implying that they are finite and not eternal.

Jastrow’s Summary - Robert Jastrow, NASA scientist and agnostic, says, “Science has proven that the universe exploded in to being at a certain moment. . . . Was the universe created out of nothing, or was it gathered out of preexisting materials? And science cannot answer these questions, because, according to the astronomers, in the first moments of its existence the universe was compressed to an extraordinary degree, and consumed by heat and fire beyond human imagination. . . . The scientist’s pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. . . . For the scientist who has lived by 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.” (*God and the Astronomers*, p. 114-16)

3. Therefore, the universe was caused to exist by another⁵ (conclusion)

⁵ Some would object to identifying this “cause” as infinite since both the major and minor premise appear to speak of a “finite” cause. Thus, how can the conclusion end with an *infinite* cause if it wasn’t first in the premises – (four term fallacy?). The answer to this can be seen in the fact that the cause in the premises and conclusion neither means finite or infinite causes *per se*, but rather a sufficient condition for the existence of something else that could be *either* a finite or infinite kind of cause. In this case, it happens to refer to an infinite cause by implication and conclusion since there must be a ground of being that itself is not caused. Thus, the cause concluded here is an *un-caused* (*via negativa*) kind of cause. See N.L. Geisler and Winfried Corduan, *Philosophy of Religion*, 200-201.

B. Design Argument (from *design* to a *Designer*) Ps 19:1-6; Rom 1:19-21

1. Design implies a designer (analogy between cause and effect, Acts 17:28-29; James 3:8-12)
2. The universe manifests design.⁶
 - a. Wristwatches imply _____
 - b. Paintings imply _____
 - c. Buildings imply _____

DNA – Blueprint of life (see Stephen Meyer, *Signature in the Cell*)

Richard Dawkins asserts that “there is enough information capacity in a single human cell to store the Encyclopaedia Britannica, all 30 volumes of it, three or four times over. . . . There is enough storage capacity in the DNA of a single lilly seed or a single salamander sperm to store the Encyclopaedia Britannica 60 times over. Some species of the unjustly called ‘primitive’ amoebas have as much information in their DNA as 1,000 Encyclopaedia Britannicas.”⁷

Irreducible Complexity – Bacterial Flagellum/ mouse trap
(see Michael Behe, *Darwin’s Black Box*)

Fossils – fully formed, developed

Questions – Order from non-order? Intelligence from non-intelligence? Design without a designer? Information system without an informer?

3. Therefore, there must be a designer of the universe.

⁶ See Joseph M. Holden, William Dembski, and Casey Luskin, gen. eds., *The Comprehensive Guide to Science and Faith* (Harvest House Publishers, 2022); see Michael J. Behe, William Dembski, and Stephen C. Meyer, “Science and Evidence for Design in the Universe” in *The Proceedings from the Westfield Institute (vol 9)*. Ignatius Press 1999; Dembski, *Intelligent Design*.

⁷ Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design* (New York: Norton, 1986, 1987, 1996), 116. See Michele Behe, *Darwins Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution* (New York: The Free Press, 1996); Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*; Stephen Jay Gould, *The Panda’s Thumb* (New York: Norton, 1982), 182.

C. Moral Argument (from *moral Law* to a moral *Law Giver*) Rom 2:14-15

1. Moral Law implies a Moral Law Giver (laws come from legislators)
2. There is Moral Law (undeniable, they use moral laws to say “no morals”)

Provide evidence:

- a. To deny absolutes is self-defeating. Moral relativism *is* a moral absolute!
- b. Does the moral relativist “value” his right to hold his opinion? Does he think that everyone should have that freedom/right or just himself?
- c. Why are worldwide laws of morality similar or identical if there are no moral absolutes inherent to our thinking?
- d. If morality is relative, relative to what?
- e. Even if the moral relativist denies morals with his words, he affirms them in his actions. They expect to be treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and fairness by all.
- f. Our founding fathers adopted “Natural Law” ethics when they formed our national documents. (“unalienable rights” given by God) – it rejects moral relativism and allows religious pluralism.

3. Therefore a Moral Lawgiver exists

D. Additional Arguments for God

Aquinas – (1224-1274) ST I.2.3, Five Ways:

- Motion
- Efficient Cause
- Contingency and Necessity
- Degrees and Perfections
- Design to Designer

Anselm – (1033-1109 AD) Ontological Argument: (*Proslogion*, Ch. 2)

- God is by definition that than which nothing greater can be conceived
- It is greater to exist in reality than to exist only in the mind
- Therefore, God must exist in reality. If He didn’t exist, he wouldn’t be the greatest possible.

Anthropological argument

- Man is an intelligent being
- Only intelligence can produce the intelligent
- Therefore, an intelligent being created man

Biological argument

- Life is a highly complex organism
- Highly complex information results from an intelligent cause
- Therefore, there is an intelligent creator

Value argument

- Value judgments are impossible without values
- Value implies a value-giver
- Therefore, a value-giver exists