

IS GOD REAL?

December 2nd & 3rd, 2023

Lee Strobel

If there is no Creator, then there's:

- No evidence for God;
- No life after death;
- No absolute foundation for right and wrong;
- No absolute meaning for life;
- No free will.

-- Atheist William Provine

1. Cosmology: the origin of the universe

“All the evidence we have says that the universe had a beginning.” – Cosmologist Alexander Vilenkin, Tufts University.

Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

The universe began to exist.

Therefore, the universe has a cause.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

Transcendent, spirit, eternal, powerful, smart, personal, creative, caring, unique.

2. Physics: the numbers behind the universe

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”

Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

“The exquisite order displayed by our scientific understanding of the physical world calls for the divine.” – Dr. Vera Kistiakowski, physics professor MIT, and president of the Association of Women in Science.

3. The Resurrection

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NIV)

- **Jesus was definitely alive at Point A**

“Jesus did exist, whether we like it or not.” – Agnostic historian Bart Ehrman.

- **Jesus was surely dead at Point B**

“Clearly, the weight of the historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead [even] before the wound to His side was inflicted.”

– Journal of the American Medical Association

- **Jesus was alive again at Point C**

His tomb was empty.

His disciples were convinced He appeared to them.

“This tradition, we can be entirely confident, was formulated as tradition within months of Jesus’ death.” Historian James D.G. Dunn

“I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt.” – Sir Lionel Luckhoo.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12 (NASB)

Believe + Receive = Become

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13 (NASB)