

"A Survey of Bible Doctrine"

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Chapter 1: What is God like?

How do we PROVE that God exists? Naturalistic Arguments and Biblical Arguments.

1 The Naturalistic or Philosophical argument of **Cause and Effect**. This is also called the **Cosmological** proof for the existence of God.

What are the possible causes for the natural world?

(1) Nothing caused this world

(2) Something caused this world: eternal cosmic processes, chance, God

What eternal cosmic process could produce the world? The Big Bang Theory

Random Chance?

God?

Another aspect of the cause & effect argument is that TIME in the past is finite.

2. The second philosophical argument concerns the **Purpose, Order and Design** we see in the world which means there is a designer. This is called the **Teleological** argument.

The Watch, The Eye and Evaporation

3. The third proof of the existence of God is the **Nature of Man** called the **Anthropological** argument.

People must account for human conscience, moral nature, intelligence, mental capacities and speech. Are we a product of evolution through the means of natural selection and adaptation over millions or even billions of years?

4. The fourth philosophical argument for the existence of God is the **Ontological** Argument. Ontos comes from the Greek verb "to be." **This argument states that people have the idea that a perfect Supreme Being exists, therefore that Supreme Being must exist.** The idea of a perfect Supreme Being includes existence; since a Being, otherwise perfect, who did not exist would not be as Perfect as a Being Who did exist, therefore God must exist.

A brief word about miracles. A miracle is something that nature does not produce on its own, but is something that is above and beyond what nature produces. God, who created and exists above and beyond creation, is certainly be able to do things that are above and beyond the natural world He created.

What does the Bible say about the existence of God? The Bible begins in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Psalms 19:1-6 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Acts 14:17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

HOW HAS GOD REVEALED HIMSELF?

God has revealed Himself through General Revelation which includes nature and history.

Romans 1:19–20 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Psalms 78:35–38 35 They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer. 36 But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues; 37 their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant. 38 Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.

John 2:11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which He revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 14:2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

John 14:9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:44–45 44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

John 5:39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,

The most important thoughts we have are our thoughts about GOD!