

WHY BELIEVE IN GOD?

Argument #1: Cause and Effect (Cosmological Argument)

The fictional character Robinson Crusoe immediately concluded that other humans had come to his island when he saw a human footprint in the sand on the beach. He saw an *effect* and, even though he had not been present when the footprint was made, he was able to reason accurately about the *cause*. You and I see the world around us and can reason accurately about its cause—about its creation.

All scientific investigation is based on cause and effect observation. It is the heart of the scientific method. Whatever one believes about the development of the world since its origin, the origin of all material things has no logical or consistent scientific explanation except a first cause. In an attempt to avoid the existence of God, many scientists say that matter has always existed, but this conflicts with the very cause and effect law upon which all science depends.

Cause and Effect, Pg 2

Scientists know that inert matter cannot create inert matter. So what was the origin of the vast amount of matter which today comprises the universe? For the only explanation that does not conflict with all known laws, we must enter the spiritual realm where God exists as an eternal first cause.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Hebrews 11:3 → "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Cause and Effect, Pg 3

Hebrews 3:4 → "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God."

Acts 17:24 → "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands."

The possible explanations are these: 1) The world is an illusion, 2) The world always existed, 3) The world arose spontaneously, 4) The world was created.

Given the reality of the cause and effect law that governs our universe, the only possibility that makes sense is that this universe was created by a power outside of the physical realm—a power that is not governed by the physical laws of our world. This is a Creator who is eternal, Himself created by no one.

Argument #2: Design (Teleological Argument)

This argument carries the cosmological argument (every effect has a cause) one step further. The design of every effect tells about the designer. Laws argue for a designer with a purpose. Objects such as man, animals, plants, etc. argue for purpose and planning because of their complexity and orderly arrangement. The universe would have no life if it did not operate by laws which govern every facet of its existence. Some things happen by chance, but even examples of chance in the universe are part of an orderly plan and fill a purpose.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 19:1-6

“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Design, Pg 2

Psalms 8: 3-4

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?"

Romans 1:20-21

"Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened." (See also: Isaiah 40:12-26)

Design, Pg 3

The passages above indicate that the world around us is not only a good proof for the existence of God, but an indication of His power and divine nature. Consider simply the aspect of power. The size and complexity of the universe is beyond our imagination, and yet some entity had to be responsible for its existence. The principle involved is a simple one; the maker of something is greater than the thing he makes. If what someone makes is complex, then its creator is intelligent. If the object is vast, the creator has power at his disposal. Since our universe is both vast and complex, the Creator is both omnipotent and omniscient.

Argument #3: Morality (Ontological Argument)

This argument carries the principle of the previous two arguments into the moral realm. Most agree that there is no moral consciousness in inanimate objects such as rocks, electricity, elements, etc. If there is no spiritual, moral creator, where does the concept of morality come from? Since our

Moral awareness, the conscience, is a universal characteristic of man, there must be a single ethical source for all man's moral thinking. This source cannot be inanimate matter, but a moral Creator.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Morality

Romans 1:25-29

“Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers.”

Morality

Acts 17:26-29

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone...by... man's devising."

Morality

These passages explain that there is no morality without God. A god of wood or gold cannot supply morality because spiritual concepts do not come from inanimate, material things.

All races, no matter how barbarous, have some concept of a divine being. The most logical reason for this to be true is the existence of such a being, the moral and intellectual characteristics of whom, are the blueprint for the moral character of man.