



DOES GOD EXIST?

SKEPTICS AND ATHEISTS:

- There was no beginning, and time is infinite
- The universe has always existed and is eternal
- God cannot be detected
- Creation is nothing more than evolution - even from the simple to the complex
- There was no initial cause
- Right and wrong is just a matter of opinion, culture or society

DOES GOD EXIST?

- YES - THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT
- YES – THE DESIGN ARGUMENT
- YES – THE MORAL ARGUMENT
- YES – THE PERSONAL INTERACTION ARGUMENT

DOES GOD EXIST? THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Kalam Cosmological Argument

- The universe is not eternal and must have had a beginning
- Demonstrated by analyzing the concept of infinity – Potential and actual
- If time is infinite, then how can there be a present? You could never get to the present
- If time had a beginning, then something must have caused it – there is no such thing as an effect that did not have a cause as this would be a potential infinity
- Therefore, there is an uncaused cause – a cause not contingent on anything

DOES GOD EXIST? THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

THE THOMAS AQUINAS COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

- Motion is an effect and therefore needs a cause
- The chain of cause and effect to create motion cannot regress infinitely
- There must be an unmoved mover
- Everything that comes into existence owes its existence to something else – something cannot cause itself
- Therefore, the first cause must be self-existent
- Nothing in the universe must exist – everything could just as well not have existed
- Therefore, not all beings are merely possible, but there must exist something that existence of which is necessary

DOES GOD EXIST? THE COSMLOGICAL ARGUMENT

- The Leibnizian Cosmological Argument
 - Accepts The Aquinas arguments of cause and asks 'why?'
 - Presupposes that there must be a sufficient reason for the existence of the universe
 - Everything that exists has a reason outside of and prior to its existence
 - There can be no infinite chain of reasons as no infinite chain of causes
 - The universe cannot provide sufficient explanation for its own existence
 - Therefore, the reason must be outside of the universe in a being that is self-existent

DOES GOD EXIST? THE COSOMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

- Support from Scientific Research
 - Second Law of Thermodynamics
 - Usable energy is running out
 - Order tends towards increasing disorder
 - Therefore, the universe is 'winding down'
 - The Big Bang
 - Our galaxy is one of billions of galaxies
 - The universe is expanding - the expansion rate accelerates the further out in the universe
 - Expansion means there was a point of origin
 - The point of origin must have had a cause
 - The 'explosion' from the point of origin must have had a cause
 - Therefore, the cause of the universe must be found outside of the universe - transcendent

DOES GOD EXIST? THE DESIGN ARGUMENT

- Fine - Tuning
 - 35 parameters that must fall within a narrow range to make life possible
 - Gravitational force constant
 - Expansion rate of the universe
 - Mass density of the universe
 - Etc.
 - Complexity
 - The odds for a one-cell animal to emerge by chance is 1 in 10^{40000}
 - The information content of the human brain is equivalent to 20 million books

DOES GOD EXIST? THE DESIGN ARGUMENT

- Information Design
 - Information is only information if it is communicated between two minds
 - Significantly complex information can only come from an intelligent being
 - DNA contains, stores, retrieves and conveys information for the body to develop and function
 - Information is not inherent to naturally occurring physical objects
 - The DNA requires a language to communicate its information
 - The genetic code is a language
 - Therefore, information needs an informer who orders things in a certain way to communicate specific content

DOES GOD EXIST? THE DESIGN ARGUMENT

- Complexity as Design
 - Irreducible complexity – Any simpler and it would not function
 - If irreducible complexity exists in biology then macro evolution of the human is false
 - Biological irreducible complexity is demonstrated by cilium, bacteria flagellum, blood clotting, etc
 - Irreducible complexity seems to be only possible by an intelligent designer
 - *“The world is too complicated in all its parts and interconnections to be due to chance alone. I am convinced that the existence of life with all its order in each of its organisms is simply too well put together. Each part of a living thing depends on all its other parts to function. How does each part know? How is each part specified at conception? The more one learns of biochemistry the more unbelievable it becomes unless there is some type of organizing principle—an architect for believers.” —Allan Sandage -American Astronomer*

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- Do right and wrong objective realities apply to all people, or are they just a matter of opinion?
- Relativism – There are no objective or moral truths
 - Cultural Relativism
 - There is no right or wrong – there is no universal truth
 - Based on observation of cultural norms, a statement of what is
 - Morals are not a description of what is, but of what ought to be
 - Discounts, out of hand, the possibility of objective morality
 - A cultural relativist must then argue against themselves as their argument that there is no objective morality can only be true if their view is objective and universal
 - If their view is universal, then it violates their own standard that there is not universal truth

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- Conventionalism
 - There is no right or wrong as these are determined from society to society
 - If society defines legal, then a person who protests those laws of society is, by definition, immoral and a criminal
 - Majority rules and morality is what is legal. This would render the Holocaust moral and legal from a German societal point of view
 - Therefore, according to Conventionalism, criminals would include Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Gautam Buddha, William Wilberforce, Mother Theresa, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Conventionalism is ultimately about power and control, not morality

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- Ethical Subjectivism
 - Individuals decide what is right and wrong for themselves. What is true for you is true for you and what is true for me is true for me
 - Changes to the circumstances.. 'I choose to..' or 'That's your point of view and my view is just as valid as your view'
 - However, if all truth is relative then the statement 'All truth is relative' is now a universal truth and not a relative truth
 - No worldview can be true if it contradicts itself
 - Therefore, ethical subjectivism must not be universally true
 - Therefore, ethical subjectivists, who deny a universal truth, acknowledge that a universal truth is possible and necessary

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- Objective Morality
 - Morals are the prescriptions for behavior and motive that have the force of command
 - Morals are not a personal or private decision
 - Science cannot tell us what ought to happen from a moral perspective
 - Reason helps us recognize contradictions, but not the morality of the proposition
 - Much of morality is self-evident or intuitive throughout societies and cultures – there are common threads
 - Therefore, if there are moral common threads though out societies and cultures, where does this ‘thread’ come from?

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- Morality is objective and exists outside of our beliefs
- Morality is authoritative and are commands to obey
- Commands are forms of communication—a communication between minds
- When we violate morale laws, we have guilt
- Since morals are universal and transcend individuals, societies, and time, the source must be universal and transcendent
- If morals are prescriptive, it is the lawgiver who provides them

(Continued)

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- If morals are obligations, then it is the lawgiver we are obliged to
- If morals are authoritative then they must come from an authority and authority can only be held by one person
- The person must have the power to oppose his will on us
- The person must be able to provide us with the ability to know the moral through intuition
- Therefore, morals come from a transcendent person who has the power and authority to impose a moral law on us
- “And transcendent, immutable, authoritative, prescribing, moral person to whom we are obliged is what we call God
- Unless we want to deny there is any right or wrong, good or evil, the only solid foundation for supporting morality is belief in God.

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE MORAL ARGUMENT

- Where Do God’s Morals Come From
Goodness reflects God’s character. It is not external to God. God’s preferences are an extension of His character, and His character does not change.

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DOES GOD EXIST? THE PERSONAL INTERACTION ARGUMENT

- Life After Death Or Near Death Experiences
 - Colton Burpo
 - Dr. Eben Alexander
 - Baptist minister Don Piper
- The Holy Spirit's Intervention
 - My story

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DOES GOD EXIST? Discussion Questions

- What argument for the existence of God do you find most persuasive? Why?
- Have you ever known someone who is hostile to belief in God? What seemed to be the fundamental issues of their hostility?
- Do you think belief in science creates challenge for belief in God? Why or why not?
- What do you think are some examples of moral absolutes?
- If you had the opportunity to witness to an atheist, what would be your personal testimony to why you believe that God exists?

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