

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD EXISTS?

Part 1

11/21/04 PM

1. The Existence of The Universe (Cosmological Argument) cf Psalm 19:1-4

The universe is either self-caused, eternal, or created

- Nothing can originate itself.
- The universe does not act like it is eternal
 - ◆ The Second Law of thermodynamics
 - ◇ From order to disorder
 - ◇ Heat disperses
 - ◇ All things seem to deteriorate over time.
 - ◇ The sun consumes 4 million tons of hydrogen each second.
 - ◇ Comet head may reach from 10,000 to 1 million miles across with tails up to 100 million miles long. They travel at 350 miles per second. They are disintegrating. How long could they have been doing this?
 - ◆ The Big Bang doesn't solve the problem.
- Therefore the universe must have been created.

2. The Design Of The Universe (Teleological Argument) cf Romans 1:18-20

The universe not only exists, it gives evidence of intricate design.

- Symbiotic relationships

Voltaire- "If a watch proves the existence of a watchmaker but the universe does not prove the existence of a great architect, then I consent to be called a fool."

- Not just a group of odd parts shaken in a bag.
 - ◆ Presupposes more than just energy input, but also a designer.
- computer
- Space shuttle

The universe could not have happened overtime by chance, even if we were grant that it were 14 billion years old.

- Insulin - Reasons 133-134
- Hemoglobin - Reasons 134
- DNA- Reasons 134
- George Will- Newsweek 11/9/98
- Science Finds God- Newsweek 7/20/98
- Confessions From Scientists
- Richard Lewontin

Albert Einstein (Little p. 38)

3. Human Nature

a. Our abilities Genesis 1:27; Psalm 94:9

- Genesis 1:27- Mankind was made in the image of God
 - ◆ A living intelligent creature argues for a living intelligent Creator.
- Psalm 94:9 He who planted the ear, does He not hear?
He who formed the eye, does He not see?

b. Our religious instincts cf Ecclesiastes 3:11; Romans 1:19

- Universal recognition of deity
 - ◆ among the farthest and most remote primitive peoples.

- ◇ Pre-occupied with religion, rituals, worship, sacrifices, prayers, and incantations.
- ◆ Earliest of histories and legends involve one God and Creator.
- ◇ Anthropological research of the last 60 years has challenged the evolutionary concept of religion.
- The vast majority of humanity has believed in some kind of God or gods.
 - ◆ At all times
 - ◆ In all places.

c. Our consciences Romans 2:1-3, 14-15

- There seems to be a basic universal conscience
 - ◆ Contrary to our wants and desires
 - ◆ No regard for our inclinations, practices, pleasures, and personal fortunes.
 - ◇ Often in conflict
 - ◆ Often contrary to our own self-interests
 - ◇ So not evolutionarily derived
 - ◆ Not self-imposed
 - ◇ As evident from the fact that most would like to rid themselves of it if they could.
- Our consciences seem to be a reflection of the image of God in our souls.
 - ◆ Theisen- “We conclude, therefore, that in conscience we have another revelation of God. Its prohibitions and commands, its decisions, and urges, would not have any real authority over us if we did not feel that in conscience we somehow have in reality something in our nature that is yet

above that nature. In other words, it reveals the fact that here is an absolute law of right and wrong in the universe, and that there is a Supreme Lawgiver who embodies this law in His own person and conduct.”

4. The Bible

a. Its claims

- 3800 times in the OT alone that which is written is said to be revealed by God.

b. Fulfilled prophecy

- 20% of the Bible was prophetic when written.
- 16 books are almost entirely prophecy.
- It has been said that you can't read three consecutive chapters of the OT without reading some prophecy.
 - ◆ The challenge of Isaiah 41:21ff
 - ◆ Cyrus Isaiah 44:28-45:7

5. The Person Of Christ

a. Unusual claims

- The Bible authors
 - ◆ **John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.
 - ◆ **Hebrews 1:1-3** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- ◆ **Colossians 2:9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
- Jesus Himself claimed to be God.
 - ◆ Mark 14:61-64
 - ◆ John 5:17-18
 - ◆ John 8:23-24, 54-58
 - ◆ John 10:31-33
 - ◇ Thomas Schultz- Evidence That Demands A Verdict p. 92
- Jesus claimed to be Savior
 - ◆ Matthew 9:5-6- able to forgive sins
 - ◆ Mark 10:45
- Jesus foretold His resurrection
 - ◆ Around 20 NT references to His prophesying His own death and resurrection.
 - ◆ Matthew 16:21
- Sinless life
 - ◆ John 8:46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"
 - ◆ The Bible recognizes the flaws of all its heroes except Jesus.
 - ◇ Moses, David, Jeremiah, Peter, Paul
 - ◆ His disciples claimed His sinlessness.
 - ◇ They lived with Him for 3 years.
 - ◇ As Jews, they were well aware of what sin was in themselves and others, yet they claimed Jesus was without sin.

- ◇ 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22
- ◇ 1 John 3:5 cf 1:8-10
- ◇ 2 Corinthians 5:21

b. Fulfilled prophecy

- over 300
- Peter Stoner
 - ◆ The chances of 18 is 1 in 10^{17}
 - ◆ The chance of 48 is 1 in 10^{157}

c. Marvelous miracles

- Luke 7:22 And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*

d. Insightful teaching

- He was able to look beyond actions to the hearts of men.

e. Irrefutable resurrection

- McDowell p. 198

Jesus not only revealed the existence of God, He revealed God's nature and will.

6. The Testimony Of The Holy Spirit Romans 8:15-16

7. Answered Prayer

Christmas 1985

Rambler wagon, van

8. Changed Lives

Different races, occupations, nations, and periods of history

Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations

- 1454- Darwin
- 3863, 5423- John Newton
- 5413- George Mueller
- 333- Debate
- 3156- Hitler's body guard

Ben Orchard, Matt Dillon, Kirt Henman, Kristine Lenker, Sue Stopper, Dave Ramos