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Introduction

A college professor, an avowed Atheist, was teaching his class. He shocked several of his students when he flatly stated he was going to prove there was no God. Addressing the ceiling he shouted: "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!" The lecture room fell silent. You could have heard a pin fall. Ten minutes went by. Again he taunted God, saying, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting." His countdown got down to the last couple of minutes when a Marine, just released from active duty and newly registered in the class, walked up to the professor, hit him full force, and sent him tumbling from his lofty platform. The professor was out cold! At first, the students were shocked and babbled on in confusion. The young Marine took a seat in the front row and sat silent. The class fell silent...waiting. Eventually, the professor came to, shaken. He looked at the young Marine in the front row. When the professor regained his senses and could speak he asked: "What's the matter with you? Why did you do that?" "God was busy...He sent me."

The question of God's existence is the most important question of human philosophy. Does God exist? How do we know that God exists? That's what we want to investigate in this study. It's interesting that the Bible never tries to prove that God exists. Nor does the Bible unfold formal arguments to prove God's existence. It simply throws God at us and assumes that He does exist.

The fact of His existence is assumed from the first page. Genesis 1:1 declares: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

From the first page of the Bible until the last, God's existence is assumed. The writers of Scripture take it for granted. They state that His existence is obvious to all and should not be questioned.

The Beginning of the Beginning

Genesis 1:1

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

One man who recently became a Christian said, “After all my years of education in humanistic philosophy, this is the first thing I have read that makes any sense.” God’s existence and His creation does make sense. The Bible does not attempt to prove by rational argument that God exists. But the *special revelation* of Scripture explains that He does exist. Actually, rational proof is not necessary to prove that God exists because the Bible is God’s truth, and it reveals that God does exist and that He has created everything in the universe.

Colossians 1:16

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

Of course, there are rational and logical arguments we can use to help prove to others that God does exist, but the Bible does not record any strict formula to follow in order to prove God’s existence. However, if we want to convince someone that God exists without using the finality of special revelation (the Bible) we need to appeal to *general revelation* (creation, the universe, and design).

What is the difference between special and general revelation? Special revelation speaks of God’s revelation found only in the Bible. Not everybody possesses this kind of revelation. There are those in heathen lands who have never read a Bible (Acts 17:22-29), including the asphalt-paved heathen jungles within the United States. General revelation points to the illumination that God gives to everybody and includes natural creation (Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1; Acts 14:16-17; 17:24), the inward testimony of God’s existence (Rom. 1:19), and the moral conscience that God has placed within all men (Rom. 2:14-16).

Are You a Fool?

We do know that not everyone believes in God's existence. Those who refuse to believe in God's existence are called foolish. They possess no logical or spiritual sanity in their mind or way of thinking.

Psalm 14:1

"The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good."

Psalm 53:1

"The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is* none that doeth good."

Romans 1:22 conveys it this way: "Professing themselves to be wise they became as fools." When a person refuses to believe in God he becomes a fool! But why don't people believe in God? What causes their unbelief? Since the evidence for God's existence is overwhelming, why do people become atheists? Romans 1:21 gives us the clear answer. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

People become vain in their imaginations (reasoning), or way of thinking, and the Bible attributes this godless thinking and rejection of God to a "foolish heart." The real fool is the man who does not believe in the true Creator of the universe. Mankind invents pantheistic theories about God and evolutionary myths in order to block God out of his mind. He does not want to entertain the inbred truth about a God who is the supreme and sole Creator of everything that exists. In this context of this Bible passage mankind refuses to believe in God's existence by replacing God with idols. People invent idols and foolish evolutionary myths (evolution is really an idol) to replace God and therefore abandon God in their thinking and philosophy of life. As a result, man becomes a living fool.

Romans 1:23 states it this way:

“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”

When man changes God into idols, when he worships animals, adopting the evolutionary myth that man has come from animals, it's then that he becomes foolish in his thinking and deductions. He turns off the light of God's revelation that is placed within him and chooses to live in a fool's paradise.

Equal Ground

The Bible teaches that all people begin with God. They are on equal ground when they are born. It does not matter what culture or race. All people have been given assurance about God's true existence. Every person possesses an inner knowledge or innate awareness of the true existence of God (intuition within man). No child that is schooled, outside the influence of secular humanism or heathenism, would ever question the existence of the true God. You do not have to create fanciful arguments about God's existence in order to try and prove to children that God does exist. The truth about God's existence is inbred within all mankind from birth.

Romans 1:19 reveals:

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them (in their conscience); for God hath shewed *it* unto them.”

This means that God has intuitively placed within the conscience of all mankind the truth about His existence. God appeals to the senses and reason of man through the outward creation but He has placed the truth of His existence within the conscience of man.

Romans 1:19-20

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen (God and His existence as Creator), being understood by the things that are made (creative design), *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are

without excuse (they have no excuse for rejecting the truth of God's existence)."

God begins by giving an *inner witness* and light of His existence in all men and then appeals to man's senses by proving or showing that the inner witness is true through the *outward witness* of creation. Man deducts that creation all around him reveals a Creator. God appeals to man's senses in this way. To conclude that everything just happened and the universe developed without guidance and direction is insanity. The visible things of creation tell the story that there is an invisible Creator who has created everything. Man perceives that everything around him as the imprint of God upon it and bears witness to the Creator – His "eternal power and Godhead."

In *Interpreting Basic Theology*, Addison Leitch wrote, "Unless [an atheist] is carrying on his fight against absolute nothingness—and this makes us wonder about his zeal—then he must be [arguing] against something he finds ingrained in himself and in others." He was talking about the inner witness that all people have about God. This is why atheists spend their lifetime disproving God. They need to argue against the witness and put out the lights of reasoning and truth that are inbred in their conscience.

Near the end of his life, Jean-Paul Sartre told Pierre Victor: "I do not feel that I am the product of chance, a speck of dust in the universe, but someone who was expected, prepared, prefigured. In short, a being whom only a Creator could put here; and this idea of a creating hand refers to God."

Will the True Atheist Please Stand Up?

What does atheism mean? Is there any trueborn atheist? Actually, there is no trueborn atheist that rejects God's existence. As seen above, every person is born knowing that God exists, that there is one true God that rules over all, and who they are accountable to. Someone said, "An atheist is a person who spends all his life proving there is no God." Those who believe in the existence of God are theists but those who do not are atheists. A person becomes an atheist by choice when he rejects God's inner witness. Not all people end up committing themselves to the initial inbred belief about the

true God because they choose to become vain in their imagination or way of thinking (Romans 1:21 – “vain in their imaginations”). Atheism (rejection of God) appeals to people because it gets them off the hook. They no longer need to be accountable morally to God the Creator. They can sin and do whatever they want to since God does not exist.

Romans 1:24-26 reveals what happens to atheists:

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.”

Deceived by satanic philosophies and rebellious hearts people reject God’s existence and go their own immoral ways. When people put God out of their minds, or change the truth of God’s existence into a lie (evolution, pantheism), God then gives them up to their own vile thinking and sinfulness. He confirms them in their choice. Again, denial of God’s existence is designed to release people from moral accountability before a holy God. A person who wants to live a godless life will be inclined to see a Godless universe - a universe that was not created by God. When a person sins they in some measure must put the true God out of their mind (who He is, how holy He is, and what He requires of them). When people deny God’s existence they can sin away their lives and do as they please without possessing accountability before the true and living God.

Psalm 10:13

“Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require *it*.”

Why do people condemn God and deny His existence? It’s because they don’t want to give an account of their lives to Him. Attributing all things to chance instead of God gives people a license to do what they want. But this course of action will end in their future judgment. God will “require” judgment in spite of what people think. Payday will eventually come.

Acts 17:30-31

“And the times of this ignorance (heathen ignorance about God’s existence) God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

The Proofs of God’s Existence

How can we prove there is one true God? We prove God’s existence by using arguments based upon Biblical and logical reasoning.

There are 5 main arguments that prove the existence of God.

1. The argument from being (Ontological Argument)

This argument says that if people consider the existence or Being of God, then they are in a sense admitting that there is a true God. The fact that we have in us the idea of God demands that God is its cause and that He exists (Rom. 1:19). This argument is valid. Since all people have a concept of a perfect Being, this perfect Being must exist. As we have seen, everybody is given the inner witness that God does exist and His existence or Being is proven through creation (Rom. 1:19-20). Even heathen people, who are still open to God’s inner witness, verify that there is a perfect higher Being that they are accountable and answerable to. The fact that all people worldwide possess an inner awareness of God (1 Cor. 8:4), and have an inner desire to worship (Acts 17:23), demands that there is a true Being called God, who has placed this inner compulsion or constraint in their nature.

2. The argument of man (Anthropological Argument)

The fact that man possesses a complex intellect and a moral code within him, which has a certain amount of spiritual capabilities, demands for an author, a being that possesses these same capabilities and characteristics. This Being is none other than God. This is sometimes called the moral argument as well. This is because worldwide there is generic moral code intuitively placed within man. A

universal morality or fundamental law of right and wrong does exist. Generally speaking, in every culture it is wrong to steal, kill, lie, rape, cheat, abuse children, and so on.

The Bible teaches that people worldwide do have a built-in moral code or moral consciousness (Rom. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 5:1; Acts 24:25). Since man possesses innate morality, this expresses itself in general moral evaluations and decisions. This is why we have a court system of justice. Even atheists have a certain moral code that they still follow. They will not normally go out and kill somebody, molest children, and detonate a bomb in a high school. Therefore, the atheist proves that there is a God for only a Being outside of man could place a moral code within man to follow. Moral cannot evolve from nothing. The point of this argument goes like this. Since a universal moral code does exist, then the question remains, where did it come from? The answer is easy. It came from a standard outside of man that can judge his actions. And this standard originated from God Himself.

3. The argument from design (Teleological Argument)

Every design must have a designer. The order of the universe must be the work of a Supreme Designer. There is an intelligent Designer behind the world and universe. This argument of design proves the absurdity of the evolution theory. Something cannot come from nothing! There must be a designer. Romans 1:20 teaches that when man rationally contemplates creation he knows that God is a personal Being of intricate order and design. Therefore, a world that has intricate design had to be created by the God of design.

Every leaf and cell proves that there is a Designer that has created everything. The sun, moon, and stars prove that God exists. How about a human eye with its retina, lens and cornea? How about the formation of a baby in a mother's womb (Ps. 139:14-16)? How about a wristwatch or dictionary? They could not come together by chance without a designer. All of these illustrations prove there is one true and living God. Have you looked at the universe lately? Go outside and look up into the sky. Something cannot come from nothing. As we will see in our next point, God is the first uncaused cause of everything. This is not only logical but also Biblical.

The point is this; since cells, atoms, human birth, and the earth involves intricate design, and gives all kinds of evidence for intricate design, we must conclude that there was a Supreme Designer who created everything. **A plan requires a planner, a program requires a programmer, and design requires a designer.** The order and complexity of the universe could not have arisen by random chance. When we think of the intricate patterns and movements of the astronomical bodies in the universe and the pinpoint timing of their courses in relation to one another, we know that this could not happen by chance. How about the earth's exact distance from the sun, and its accurate journey through our solar system? What about the perfect climate we enjoy? Physicists marvel at the unbelievable complexity of everything. Think of the complexity of the human ear and eye. What does the Bible say about these things?

Psalm 94:9

“He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?”

The point is that random chance cannot create intricate design. It had to be created by Someone who was intelligent and Someone who could hear and see Himself - God!! **Either you choose a self-existent God who designed everything or you choose a self-existent universe that has no God to create or run it.** But everyone in their right senses knows that the universe is too complex to evolve and run on its own.

The French Mathematician, Lecompte de Nouy, examined the laws of probability for a single molecule of high dissymmetry to be formed by the action of chance. De Nouy found that, on an average, the time needed to form one such molecule of our terrestrial globe would be about 10 to the 253 power or billions of years. However, one molecule is of no use. Hundreds of millions of identical ones are necessary! There has to be a true Creator.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus Christ, who is God, upholds or sustains “all things by the word of his power...” The whole universe of space hangs on the arm of Jesus Christ. The God of design created this design and sustains the universe. It's much easier to believe that

God the Designer spoke everything into existence without using anything else, or other raw materials, which were already in existence.

Hebrews 11:3 states:

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

This is called a *reasonable* or *rational* faith instead of a blind faith!! To believe that life came forth from previous life forms, which were not designed, but evolved out of chance and originally from slime, is absurd. The Bible teaches that God created everything (including man) from nothing! Only an intelligent Designer could do this.

4. The argument of cause and effect (Cosmological Argument)

The existence of the cosmos (world) is an effect that must have had a cause. The cause is God. Because the universe exists there must be an explanation or cause for its existence. The law of “cause and effect” argues for God’s existence. **Every effect must have a cause.** Therefore, the universe was created by a cause outside itself.

If a person skips a stone across a pond the ripples were caused by the person throwing the stone. The ripples are an effect that was caused by a person’s action. If you make a pancake or dip three scoops of ice cream into a bowl (an effect) it had to have a cause - a maker. *A product points to a producer.* The universe is an effect that had to have a cause and the only logical cause is God. But there is more to this argument. The beginning of the universe had to be contingent (based) on a thing that had nothing to do with the universe or something that was outside the universe of creation. That something was Someone - God!

God is not an effect since He is eternal. The Bible teaches that God exists outside time as know it and measure it.

Exodus 3:14 says:

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: (eternally existent) and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

We must remember that there cannot be an endless chain of causes. There must be an uncaused cause - a first uncaused cause of everything. God is the first (originating) cause and the only intelligent and personal cause for creating the entire universe. Only a self-existent God could be the first cause of everything. God is the first uncaused cause of everything.

John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:3 adds:

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

The Big Bang Theory says that an explosion occurred because of some unknown cause that ejected matter outward from a central point and eventually formed the universe. This theory only proves that some men understand that the universe needed to have an original cause but it also shows man’s ignorance in avoiding an original, intelligent, and personal cause for everything, which is God. The Bible acknowledges the principle of cause and effect – every effect must have a cause – and God is the cause.

Hebrews 3:4

“For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.”

This verse illustrates that God is the cause of all things (building of the Church) by illustrating that a house requires an efficient cause. It would be absurd to put a pile of building materials in the path of a hurricane and expect the hurricane to move the material and assemble the house. There must be a genuine first cause that can create, and God is the cause of creation and the universe, as we know it.

Some argue that the first cause of everything can be an impersonal force but how can this be since an impersonal force has no intelligence? Furthermore, how could an impersonal force or chance forces result in something that exhibits intelligence, order, design, morals, and purpose? The Bible tells us that this intelligent cause is a personal God, and all of creation gives witness to Him as the first and only cause.

Psalm 19:1-3

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*”

How do stars talk? This is a reference to a silent symphony acknowledging that God is the first cause and designer of everything! Creation plays and sings the silent symphony that God is the original and only cause of everything. The Bible repeatedly supports the conclusion that God is eternal and the first and only cause of everything.

Psalm 90:2

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.”

Some try to get around God as the first cause of creation by stating that the universe is eternal. But when doing this they deny all the facts that the universe is aging and the scientific laws of thermodynamics. The law of thermodynamics in physics teaches that everything is breaking down. The second law of thermodynamics specifically teaches that the amount of useable energy in the universe is decreasing. If the universe is running down then there must have been a starting point in which there was a maximum amount of energy in the universe. This would indicate the universe is not eternal but was originally created by God and since then has been breaking down.

5. The argument of Christ (Christological Argument)

This argument stresses the changed lives of people through the message of Jesus Christ and Gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature (creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

The Bible calls the change that happens in the lives of Christians a new birth. Jesus said, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:7). When a person places their faith in Jesus Christ they are born again (born again from an inward spiritual perspective and given God’s indwelling life). This new birth results in a different way of living. The change that can be outwardly witnessed in a person’s life after the new spiritual birth is another important and convincing factor that God exists. This change indicates that an infinite being does exist who dramatically transforms the lives of people who come to faith in His Son.

John 10:10

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

Only God can change lives in such a radical way and give people a new spiritual outlook on life, new spiritual drives, and a new holy manner of living that no longer resembles their old way of living. Only Jesus Christ can set people free from sin’s power and bring new and lasting change into their hearts and lives. The radical and lasting change and difference in the lives of Christians proves the existence of God. God changes people from the inside out and gives them a new way of life forever.

Since this is true, we know that God does exist. He is not only the Creator of the physical universe but the Creator of new life (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus Christ gives new life in the hearts and lives of those who place simple faith in His death and resurrection for their salvation from hell (1 Cor. 14:3-4; Acts 16:31). The Christian possesses a new way of life and relationship with God. The believer can look back on his life and remember what God did for him. Below is the testimony of

every born again Christian.

“In the stars His handiwork I see,
On the wind He speaks with majesty,
Though He ruleth over land and sea,
What is that to me?

Then one day I met Him face to face,
And beheld the wonder of His grace,
Then I knew that He was more than just a God who didn't care,
Who lives away out there.

Now He walks beside me day by day,
Ever watching oe'r me lest I astray.
Teaching me to find the narrow way.
He's everything to me.”