

Does God Exist?

Intro

If we are going to be a church that makes disciples we must know how to engage a lost world...

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ **But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,**

Those seeking God will find him. It is not these arguments that will see people get saved, but I want to help you learn how to give a defense.

Renting a house....

(Horses vs. Zebras hooves)

Some will not believe regardless of the evidence... (i.e. The Pharisees after Jesus' resurrection)

It is not our goal to win an argument or to prove we are right; it is our goal to make disciples.

Now this week's question is a little tricky because you cannot use the word to make a defense...

I call these the God Clues, or divine fingerprints:

Clue one:

The existence of the world.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God....

Have you thought about this much? How did everything get here?

Why is there something rather than nothing?

What some hold to as the answer:

Stephen Hawking wrote, "Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang."

Big bang theory... (the universe is expanding explosively and outwardly from a single point)

Good science: Terms

Hypothesis – theory – laws

These are my questions:

1st Law

The first law of thermodynamics is referred to as the **Law of Energy Conservation**, holding that the amount of mass and energy is constant. Mass and energy are interchangeable but neither can be created or destroyed.

Because none of the tremendous energy now available is presently being created, it is impossible that the present universe could have created itself. **Because the present natural processes cannot create energy, energy had to have been created by an agency outside the scope of the present universe.**

Can be called the “Cosmological argument.”

The “law of cause and effect” states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect.

Even a child can understand this law.

We can picture a small child asking: “Mommy, where do peaches come from?” His mother says that they come from peach trees. Then the child asks where the trees come from, and his mother explains that they come from peaches. You can see the cycle. Eventually the child wants to know how the first peach tree got here. He can see very well that it must have had a cause, and he wants to know what that cause was.

Again I would ask:

Why is there something rather than nothing?

When many are posed with this question people would argue against the thought of God.

Sam Harris, an atheist, writes in response to this line of thinking: “even if we accepted that our universe simply had to be created by an intelligent being, this would not suggest that this being is the God of the Bible.”

That is perfectly right. If we are looking at this as an argument for a **personal god** this argument does not get us all the way there. However, if we are looking for a clue- a clue that there is something besides the natural world- it is very persuasive for some.

Clue Two:

The fine tuning of the universe

The universe is like a radio.....

Dr Francis Collins (a physicist) writes:

“When you look from the perspective of a scientist at the universe, it looks as if it knew we were coming. There are 15 constants- the gravitational constant, various constants about the strong and weak nuclear force, ect.- all that have precise values. If any one of those constants was off by even one part in a million, or in some cases, one part in a million million, the universe could not have actually come to the point where we see it. Matter would not have been able to coalesce, there would have been no galaxy, stars, planets or people.”

Even **Stephen Hawking** when looking at this clue has written:

The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the Big Bang are enormous, I think there are clearly religious implications.

[Illus...]

Gravity like a ruler. (from Case for Creation video)

[Illus...]

Water boils at 100 C or 212 F (You put a thermometer into a pot of water on the stove and turn on the heat. The temperature keeps going up for a while. You notice bubbles forming in the water when the temperature reaches about 205°F. When the temperature reads 212°F the water starts to boil. After this, the temperature doesn't go up anymore.)

The argument against this clue:

Richard Dawkins explanation from the "God Delusion": is that there may be trillions of universes. Given the enormous # of universes existing over enormous amounts of time and space, it is inevitable that some of them are fine-tuned to sustain our kind of life. The one we are in is one, so here we are.

Again: There is no proof that Dawkins is not correct and that there may be trillions of universes over time.

But as a clue let's see if we hear horses or zebras: Let me give you an example:

[Illus...]

In the old west

Man dealing himself 20 straight hands of 4 aces in the same game

As everyone else reaches for their guns he says: **"I know this looks suspicious! But what if there is an infinite succession of universes, so that for any possible distribution of poker hands, there is one universe in which this possibility is realized? We just happen to find ourselves in one where I always deal myself 4 aces without cheating!"**

It is technically possible to deal yourself 4 aces 20 straight times without cheating... but are you hearing horses or zebras in this line of thinking.

Clue Three:

The existence of life.

Law of Biogenesis

Spontaneous generation (the emergence of life from non-living matter) has never been observed. All observations have shown that life comes only from life. This has been observed so consistently that it is called the Law of Biogenesis.

I am not talking about complex life.....

DNA

Dr. Frances Crick (the co-discoverer of DNA) stated that the chance of a single DNA chain being formed over time on its own is 1×10^{200k} .

Imre Burrell (Nobel Prize winner in Probability Science) said anything with probability of 1×10^{50} or less chance is not a mathematical improbability but is so slim it is a mathematical impossibility.

2nd Law (Einstein called the 2nd Law, "the premier law of science.")

The second law of thermodynamics is perhaps the most devastating evidence against evolution. The **second law is referred to as the Law of Energy Decay or Law of Entropy**. The second law holds that all the available energy in the universe is decreasing. Material things in the universe age, wear out, decay, and die. **The universe is proceeding downward from order to disorder; consequently, the universe will eventually die of heat-death as the molecules in the universe will move into a random pattern incapable of being used again.**

Clue Four:

The clue of beauty and Meaning

Arthur Danto, the art critic at "The Nation," once described a work of art that gave him a sense of, "obscure but inescapable meaning." He wrote, "While art does not hit you over the head with a simple message, it always

gives you a sense that life is not a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” It fills you with hope and gives you the strength to carry on, though you cannot define what it is that moves you.”

If there is no God, and everything in this world is the product of “an accidental collocation of atoms, as Bertrand Russell put it. Then there is no actual purpose for which we were made- we are accidents.

Then enjoyment of beauty, the way music makes us feel, and even love are just genetic responses.

There is something within us that longs for more.

Now some would say so what? Just because we feel something is true doesn't make it so.

But is what we are talking about just a feeling or more so an appetite or desire?

St Augustin in his “**Confessions**” reasoned that these unfulfillable desires are clues to the reality of God.

How so?

Just because we feel the desire for a steak dinner doesn't mean we will get it or that it even exists. However, while hunger doesn't mean we will get a certain meal, doesn't the appetite for food in us mean that food exists?

Isn't true that innate desires correspond to real objects that can satisfy them, such as sexual desire (corresponding to sex), physical appetite (corresponding to food), tiredness (corresponding to sleep), and relational desires (corresponding to friendships)

We have a longing for joy, love, and beauty that no amount or quality of food, sex, friendship, or success can satisfy. We want something that nothing in this world can fulfill. Isn't that at least a clue that this “something” that we want exists?

Argument against:

Daniel Dennett, in “Breaking the spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon” writes this: “Everything we value- from sugar and sex and money to music and love and religion- we value for reasons. Lying behind, and distinct from, our reasons are evolutionary reasons, free-floating rationales that have been endorsed by natural selection.”

In essence what is being said is that somehow these desires helped our ancestors survive and therefore are hardwired into us.

In this thinking there may be a fatal flaw.

In the last part of **Richard Dawkins book**, “the God Delusion,” he admits **that since we are the product of natural selection, we can't completely trust our own senses. After all, evolution is interested only in preserving adaptive behavior, not true belief.**

Evolutionists say that if God makes sense to us, it is not because he is there, it is only because that belief helped us survive and so we are hardwired for it.

However, if we can't trust our belief forming facilities to tell us the truth about God, why should we trust them to tell us the truth about anything, including evolutionary science. If our cognitive facilities only tell us what we need to survive, not what is true, why trust them about anything at all?

The questions comes down to what clues do we see:

Do we wonder why:

- The world exists?
- Why there seems to be such fine tuning in the universe?
- Why is there life?
- Why do we long for meaning?

These in themselves do not prove that God exists, but I do believe that they are divine fingerprints of a God leaving clues.

Lets pray.

Next week: Can the Bible be trusted?