

Theology Proper

The Existence of God (part 1) – Lesson 3

• Lesson overview:

- ↳ The Biblical Position of God's Existence
- ↳ Secular Theories Concerning God
- ↳ Attacks Against the Existence of God
- ↳ Rational Arguments for the Existence of God from General Revelation
 - Cosmological Argument

I. The Biblical position of God's existence

- A.** The Bible begins and ends with the assumption that God exists. Thus, we conclude that God's own declaration of His existence as stated in Scripture is sufficient to warrant His existence. God simply starts with the statement, *"In the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth."* (Gen. 1:1). When asked, "Who created God", the Bible declares God is eternal and had no beginning and therefore has no creator. Scripture, which is God's own self-disclosure to man states emphatically that God is the only eternal God, and there is none else.
1. **Isaiah 43:10-11** – *"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour."*
 2. **Isaiah 44:6** – *"Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."*
 3. **Isaiah 45:5** – *"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:"*
 4. **Deuteronomy 6:4** – *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"*
 5. **Jeremiah 10:10** – *"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation."*
 6. **John 17:3** — **3**; *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the _____, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*
 7. **Ephesians 4:6** – *"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*
 8. **I Timothy 2:5** – *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"*
- B.** The greatest source of truth we have is the Word of God, therefore we must base our belief in God's existence primarily upon the revealed Word of God, it is a "more sure Word" than human reasoning, rational arguments, or general revelation. Though God has made us rational beings with the power to reason, without the guiding hand of Scripture, our reasoning would quickly be filled with error. Though the natural world (general revelation) reveals God, without the Scripture defining who that God is, we would turn into pagans in our beliefs and would easily be found worshiping the creation more than the Creator.
- C.** People are born with an innate consciousness that God does exist (Rom. 1:21). Pivotal to Paul's argument in Romans 1 of universal condemnation is the concept

that all men know God. Men do not stand condemned because they never knew God, but rather because when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God.

1. _____ — *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.*
 2. Man is not condemned because he did not know of God's existence, but rather what he does with that knowledge (Rom. 1:21-23).
- D. On his own, man cannot discover the person, nature, will, and purposes of God (Isaiah 55:8; Job 23:8-9), but God has graciously and carefully revealed Himself to man. Though man intuitively knows that God exists, and that He deserves to be worshipped, all specific knowledge of a personal God must come through _____ revelation, and the primary source is the _____.

II. Secular Theories Concerning God

- A. **Atheism** – Denies the _____ of God.
- B. **Agnosticism** – Denies God can be _____.
- C. **Skepticism** – Suppositional disbelief in God until it is proven to him.
- D. **Idolatry** – A god who take up a higher place in a _____ object or in the _____ of a person.
- E. **Pantheism** – *Identifies God with the _____, God is the universe; God is _____ and everything is God.*
- F. **Polytheism** – *Worship of _____ gods who usually have names and can be defined.*
- G. **Deism** – *Belief in a personal creator God who _____ from the universe after he created it.*
- H. **Dualism** – *There are _____ coeternal forces in an ongoing battle between good and evil. (Buddhism/Hinduism – Yin/Yang)*
- I. **Henotheism** – *Worshiper who serves one god he selects, but does not deny other gods (ancient Greek religion – Zeus)*
- J. **Monotheism** – *Believes in only _____ God.*
- K. **(Christianity) Theism** – *The belief in the one personal and ethical God, who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and yet who is distinct from it.*

III. Attacks against God's Existence

- A. Sigmund _____, known as the father of modern psychoanalysis, on which much of modern Psychology is built upon, believed that man _____ God, not the other way around. In his book "The Future of an Illusion" (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 1961), Freud said that man desperately needs security because we have deep-seated fears from living in a threatening world in which we have little control over our circumstances. He believed we invented God as a protective father. Freud has absolutely no evidence for this theory, but sadly many have believed him. That is the same tactic Satan uses against God. He doesn't need proof or evidence, just questioning of God for the purpose of causing doubt.
 1. In Genesis 3, in the garden Satan came to Eve, and his first words were, "*Hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*" He starts by _____ God Word for the purpose of causing doubt in God's Word and finally he will outright _____ God's Word (you shall not surely die – Genesis 3:4).

2. Freud's view was that man created this all-loving peaceful protector and savior called God. But his belief does not match up after an examination of the religions that man has invented.
3. The gods the world makes up are not gods who are peaceful protectors and wonderful saviors, they are usually of an oppressive nature and gods that need to continually be appeased.
4. The gods spawned by false religions are not protecting gods but are rather fearful gods, not the picture of a loving heavenly Father. Man has not invented God, in fact if man had his way, man would rather God did not exist.
 - a. What was the first thing Adam and Eve did after they sinned in Genesis 3:8? _____.
 - b. Romans 1:21 tells us that all men and women know that God exists. The absolutely clear evidence for the reality of God in the heart of man has caused men to be at worst agnostic, for no heart can completely reject and remove what he knows exists, all he can do is suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18) and seek to turn the light of truth off causing him to sit in the darkness of his own ignorance.
 - c. The Bible is clear that Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor.4:4), and this world is influenced by his lies. Also, we must understand that a world in which Satan reigns will be a world that will do whatever it can to deny the existence and reality of God even against the certainty of His existence.

B. Charles _____ - and _____ attack on God

1. Charles Darwin was raised in a Christian environment and had actually at one point looked into the ministry. But he slowly lost whatever faith he had and slowly began to not believe. Darwin did not just turn from the Bible, but he turned against it. In James Moore's biography: "Charles Darwin: the Life of a Tormented Evolutionists" reveals the true nature of Darwin's motive. On August 8, 1860 in a letter to T.H. Huxley, who was Darwin's most committed and vocal supporters, Darwin referred to him as "my good and kind agent for the propagation of the Gospel—i.e., the devil's gospel." Darwin spoke of the *"impossibility of conceiving this immense and wonderful universe, including man with his capacity ..., as the result of blind chance or necessity."*¹ Darwin wrote that he was deeply conscious of his own ignorance. In his personal letters he wrote about having awful misgivings, of having deluded himself and devoted himself to a fantasy. But as his biographer said of him, "His life was one long attempt to escape from Paley [i.e., his *Natural Theology*], to escape from the church, to escape from God. It is this that explains so much that would otherwise be incongruous in his life and character."²
2. Evolution was then devised to explain away the God of the Bible, not because evolutionists really believed a Creator was unnecessary to explain how things began, but because they did not want the God of Scripture as their Judge.
3. **Marvin L. Lubenow writes in his book, "Bones of contention",**
 - *"The real issue in the creation/evolution debate is not the existence of God. The real issue is the nature of God. To think of evolution as basically atheistic is to misunderstand the uniqueness of evolution. Evolution was not designed*

¹ (Charles Darwin, *The Autobiography of Charles Darwin* (Cambridge, U.K.: Icon Books, Ltd., 2003), p. 149.)

² (Robert E. D. Clark, *Darwin: Before and After* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967), pp. 84-85.)

as a general attack against theism. It was designed as a specific attack against the God of the Bible, and the God of the Bible is clearly revealed through the doctrine of creation. Obviously, if a person is an atheist, it would be normal for him to also be an evolutionist. But evolution is as comfortable with theism as it is with atheism. An evolutionist is perfectly free to choose any god he wishes, as long as it is not the God of the Bible. The gods allowed by evolution are private, subjective, and artificial. They bother no one and make no absolute ethical demands. However, the God of the Bible is the Creator, Sustainer, Savior, and Judge. All are responsible to him. He has an agenda that conflicts with that of sinful humans. For man to be created in the image of God is very awesome. For God to be created in the image of man is very comfortable. ³

4. The chief reason man seeks to remove God is not because man innately hates the idea of God, but they do not want accountability for their sins.
 - a. **John 3:19-20 — 19;** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20; For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*
 - b. **Romans 1:28 —** *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*
 - c. **As evolutionary scientist Sir Julian Huxley said,** *“[I suppose the reason] we all jumped at the Origin [Origin of Species] was because the idea of God interfered with our sexual mores.”*⁴
5. 2000 years ago, God foretold this whole evolutionary battlefield in Romans 1:20-25.
 - a. Romans 1:19-20 reveal the reality of God. Then in verses 21-22 we see that although man “knows” God exists, they choose not to glorify and honor Him as their Creator and to be thankful to Him. Instead, they profess themselves to be wise (v.22) and God says that they became fools.
 - b. Instead of worshiping God, man turned God into nothing more than the material world. They likened God unto themselves.
 - **Romans 1:23 -** *“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.”*
 - c. Man did not stop there, they then turned God’s Holy Word and truth into a lie and rather worshiped the creation more than their Creator.
 - **Romans 1:25 -** *“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.”*
6. Evolution is man’s attempt to rid themselves of the God of the Bible, and that is really the purpose of evolution. Creation teaches that God created man in His image; evolution teaches man creates God in his image. Evolution lets man “make up” their own god; they get to make a god that suites them.

³ (Bones of Contention: A Creationist Assessment of Human Fossils (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992), 188-89.)

⁴ Quoted in Henry M. Morris, *The Troubled Waters of Evolution* (1974), p. 58.

Mankind would rather put their faith in time and chance rather than the God of the Bible. By doing this they do not have to answer to anyone.

IV. Rational Arguments for the Existence of God from General Revelation

- Though Scripture is the first and superior source for knowing God exists, God has also given us both general revelation and the ability to reason which both point to God's existence (Rom. 1:19-20, Ps.19:1-4, Ps. 8:3-4). The following are several "natural proofs" of the existence of God that should bring the reasoning mind to the clear conclusion of God's existence.

A. _____ Argument

1. This is an argument of "cause" and "_____".
2. This argument reasons from the existence of the _____.
3. Simply stated, this argument reasons that the existence of the universe demands a _____ sufficient to produce such an effect. Every effect owes its existence to some sufficient cause: the first cause, who is Himself uncaused, is _____.
4. **Example:** If you saw a watch, you would conclude there was a _____; if you saw a building, you would conclude there was a _____.
 - a. **Question:** Would you have to see the watchmaker or builder to believe in their existence? Why?
 - b. In the same way, when we look at creation, it demands that there was a _____.
 - c. William Evans - *"No one but a 'fool' will deny the fact of God. 'What! no God? A watch, and no key for it? A watch with a main-spring broken, and no jeweler to fix it? A watch, and no repair shop? A time-card and a train, and nobody to run it? A star lit, and nobody to pour oil in to keep the wick burning? A garden, and no gardener? Flowers, and no florist? Conditions, and no conditioner?" He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh at such absurd atheism.*" (The Great Doctrines of the Bible, pg. 4)
5. The Bible teaches that Creation is the general revelation of God that clearly evidences that there is an all-powerful Creator God (Rom. 1:19-20, Ps.19:1-4, Ps. 8:3-4).
6. **The _____ Cosmological Argument (This argument is made up of three very basic elements)**
 - a. Everything that begins to exist has a _____.
 - b. The universe has a beginning of its _____.
 - c. Therefore, the universe has a _____ of its existence.
 - d. Since no scientific explanation (in terms of physical laws) can provide a cause of the origin of the universe, the cause must be personal.
 - e. Every event must have a cause, and each cause must in turn have its own cause, and so forth. Hence, there must either be an infinite regress of causes or there must be a starting point or first cause. If you ask the question long enough, *"and where did that come from"*, you will ultimately end at the question of *"who started that first cause?"* The question must be asked, what is the first cause? For which science has no explanation.
 - f. Evolution believes all things somehow popped into existence from absolutely nothing (spontaneous generation). They believe in the Big Bang Theory which teaches billions of years ago everything in the universe was condensed down to the size of a dot on a page and became extremely hot

and exploded to become what we know as our universe today. Discover Magazine stated in 2002, *“The universe burst into something from absolutely nothing-zero, nada. And as it got bigger, it became filled with even more stuff that came from absolutely nowhere.”*

- g. Ask an evolutionist:** “Where did time, matter, and space originate (Cosmic evolution)? Where did the origin of higher elements from hydrogen originate (Chemical evolution)? Where did stars and planets originate (Stellar & Planetary evolution)? How did life originate from inanimate matter (Organic evolution)? To all these there are absolutely no scientific evidence; it is all believed by evolutionists and shoved into some kind of man-made theory. Therefore, evolution is not scientific, but _____. It seeks to make mother earth our creator and not the God of the Bible.

7. “Well then who created God?”

- a. The Kalam argument states that everything that “begins” to exist has a cause; and the Bible teaches that God had no beginning.
- b. God is “_____ -existing”, meaning he is the source of his own existence. We exist dependent upon things outside of ourselves such as air, water, food, etc. God needs _____ outside Himself to exist.
 - 1) **Exodus 3:14** - “And God said unto Moses, *I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*”
 - 2) **Exodus 6:3** – And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty (El Shaddai – Almighty God, most powerful God), but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.
 - 3) Yahweh (Jehovah) = “the _____ One”
 - 4) _____ — *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*
 - 5) **Results:** Since God is “life” and the source of all things living, all existing things come from God and are also _____ upon God for their existence.
 - i. **John 5:26** - “For as the Father hath life in _____ himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;”
 - ii. **Acts 17:25** – “Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life _____, and breath, and all things;”
 - iii. **Psalm 93:2, 36:9, Job 12:10, John 1:3-4, 8:58, Rev.1:8**

8. In his book, “Not a Chance: The Myth of Chance in Modern Science and Cosmology”, Christian Apologist, Dr. R.C. Sproul has rightly argued that there are only 4 options we have regarding the existence and creation of the universe:

- a. **Option 1 – The universe is an _____, which means we only think it exists, but it really doesn’t.**
- b. **Option 2 – The universe is _____ -created.**
 - 1) Self-creation would logically require your existence before you created yourself, therefore self-creation is a logical and rational

impossibility. Sproul points out that you can be self-existent and eternal and not violate logic, but you cannot be self-created.

- 2) Yet that is in fact what a great number of evolutionary scientists believe since they reject God, the universe had to create itself. It is known as “spontaneous generation” which basically teaches that nothing burst into something (the big bang) and that became organized into an entire universe. Such a theory can be believed, but it cannot be argued reasonably.
- 3) George Wald, who was formerly of Harvard and a winner of the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine, acknowledged the dilemma. Wald states,

- *“One has to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet, here we are as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation”.*

Naturally you ask, *“How on earth would they believe such irrational, illogical absurdity”, to which Wald goes on to give the answer,*

- *“Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the ‘impossible’ becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: time itself performs the miracles.”⁵*

- 4) This is an example of the faith that evolutionists have put into the natural world. They believe the natural world can perform supernatural feats and they hide the foolishness of their claims in “billions of years”. Professor and philosopher Quentin Smith insists that, *“the most reasonable belief is that we came from nothing, by nothing, and for nothing.”⁶*

5) But is believing in self-creation science or faith?

6) Does time plus chance equal everything?

7) Is that rational and logical?

8) When people say, “I don’t believe in God, I believe in science”, do they really understand what they are saying? They have put faith in nothing whereas Creationists have put their faith in Someone.

c. Option 3 – The universe is self-existent and _____.

- 1) The universe for centuries was believed to be eternal, static, and infinite. This is known as the “cosmological constant” or what is known as Albert Einstein’s “steady state theory”. Evolutionists have long desired that the universe did not have a beginning, to say so you would have to have someone who began it all. Yet in the 20th century, Edwin Hubble’s “Hubble telescope” went out into space and showed that the universe is not static and constant but is rather

⁵ George Wald, “The Origin of Life,” *Scientific American*, May 1954, 46, 48.

⁶ William Lane Craig and Quentin Smith, *Theism, Atheism and Big Bang Cosmology* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993), 135.

expanding. These discoveries from cosmology have clearly pointed to the reality that the universe did indeed have a beginning.

- 2) Einstein believed for most of his career that the universe was eternal, but towards the end, he said that the cosmological constant was the "biggest blunder" of his career.
- 3) To believe in an eternal universe is also illogical and irrational. Nothing in the material world has "always existed". How could the universe exist forever, then do something it had never done, create itself? Therefore, if the universe always existed, then everything in it always existed.

d. Option 4 – The universe was created by _____ who is eternally self-existent.

- 1) Option one, option two, option three are impossible. The universe is not an illusion – it does exist. The universe is not self-created because self-creation is impossible. The universe is self-existent and eternal – nothing in the material world has always existed. We're left with only one possibility; the universe exists because it was created by someone who existed before it existed, a pre-existing intelligent power, namely God. Matter can't create itself, only an eternal pre-existing God could create.
 - 2) **Sir Isaac Newton** – *"This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and domain of an intelligent and powerful Being."*⁷
 - 3) **Robert A. Naumann, Professor of Chemistry and Physics at Princeton University** *"The existence of the universe requires me to conclude that God exists."*⁸
9. The Scriptures clearly teach that God is the cause of all the cosmos; He is the one who started it all. Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning _____ created...." (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16)
- a. The word "created" comes from the Hebrew word "bara" which is a verb that means to "create out of nothing." God literally brought the entire universe into existence out of nothing.
 - b. There are other similar Hebrew words such as "asa" or "yatsa" which mean to "form, shape, make, or fashion," but "bara" is rarely used. It's one thing to "shape or form" clay, it is another thing to make it.
 - c. Since we were not there when the universe was created, we have no idea how it started, unless the Creator gave us the account of the creation, and that is exactly what He did in the Bible.
 - d. **Henry Morris**, who some state to be the "father of modern creation science", who was the president of the Institute for Creation Research, speaks of the uniqueness of the statement in Genesis 1:1:
 - 1) *"Genesis 1:1 is unique in all literature, science, and philosophy. Every other system of cosmogony, whether in ancient religious myths or*

⁷ General Scholium, in *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, Isaac Newton. 1687).

⁸ Morgan, R. J. (2000). *Nelson's complete book of stories, illustrations, and quotes (electronic ed.)* (Page 153). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

modern scientific models, starts with eternal matter or energy in some form, from which other entities were supposedly gradually derived by some process. Only the Book of Genesis even attempts to account for the ultimate origin of matter, space, and time; and it does so uniquely in terms of special creation.”⁹

- e. Evolutionist Herbert Spencer**, who wrote of evolution before Darwin did and even coined the phrase “survival of the fittest” in his work “Principles in Biology” (1864). He outlined five categories that all reality can be contained into: time, force, action, space, and matter. *Everything* that can be known or observed by science fits into one of those categories, Spencer claimed, and nothing can be truly said to “exist” outside of them.¹⁰

- 1)** Compare these categories that Spencer discovered in the 19th century to what God wrote thousands of years prior in Genesis 1:1

- i.** In the beginning” – That is _____
- ii.** “God” – That is _____
- iii.** “created” – That is _____
- iv.** “the heavens” – That is _____
- v.** “and the earth” – That is _____

- 2)** John MacArthur - *“The statement is precise and concise almost beyond human composition. Everything that could be said about everything that exists is said in that first verse. In the first verse of the Bible God laid out plainly what no scientist or philosopher cataloged until the nineteenth century. Moreover, what evolution still cannot possibly explain—the actual origin of everything that science can observe—the Bible explains in a few succinct words in the very first verse of Genesis.”¹¹*

- 10.** Scripture is clear that God is and He is the Creator of all things.

- a. Nehemiah 9:6** – *“Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”*
- b. Psalm 102:25** *“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*
- c. Psalm 115:15** - *“Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.”*
- d. Jeremiah 10:12** - *“He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.”*
- e. Zechariah 12:1** - *“The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.”*

⁹ Morris, Henry, M, The Genesis Record, pg.18.

¹⁰ Herbert Spencer, “First Principles” (London: Williams and Norgate, 1862), chapter 3.

¹¹ MacArthur, J. (2001). *The battle for the beginning: The Bible on creation and the fall of Adam* (Page 40). Nashville, TN: W Pub. Group.

- f. **God asks Job: Job 38:4 — 4;** *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.*
- g. **John 1:1-3** - *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."*
- h. **Matthew 11:25** - *"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."*
- i. **Acts 4:24** - *"And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:"*
- j. **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:"*
- k. **Revelation 10:6** - *"And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:"* (Rev. 4:10-11)

- **Weekly Assignments**

- Study for test over lesson 3
- Read "Biblical Doctrine" (MacArthur/Mayhue) pages 147-153