

THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

The Greek word *telos* means “end or purpose,” and *ology* relates to the study of a branch of knowledge.

Teleological Argument for the Existence of God:

1. If an object bears the hallmarks of design, it most likely has a designer.
2. The universe and life exhibit the hallmarks of design.
3. Therefore, the universe and life most likely have a Designer.

Teleological Argument for the Existence of God, William Lane Craig version:

1. The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
2. It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
3. Therefore, it is due to design.

Two fundamental questions for tonight are

1. What caused the universe?
2. What caused Life?

What caused the universe?

Over twenty parameters or constants must be present within strict tolerances in order for the universe to exist as we know it. These constants are not determined by what we call the laws of nature. They could have many different values.

Examples: Four Fundamental Forces, which must all must be fine-tuned:

1. Strong Nuclear Force
2. Weak Nuclear Force
3. Electromagnetic Force
4. Gravity

“If the **expansion rate** of the universe was different by one part in a thousand, million, million a second after the big bang, the universe would have collapsed back on itself or never developed galaxies.” – Stephen Hawking

The **cosmological constant (Λ)**, represents the energy density of empty space, which drives the acceleration of cosmic expansion. Its value must be tuned to approx. one part in 10^{120} . If it were slightly larger, space would have expanded too quickly for galaxies to form. If it were smaller, the universe would have collapsed on itself almost instantly.

What caused Life?

Goldilocks Zones

The Cell as an “enormously complex nano factory.” (Michael Behe)

Irreducible Complexity: a system requiring many independent parts to all be present to function. One missing component stops the system from functioning. (e.g., the mousetrap)

Bacterial Flagellum – an organic outboard motor with 30 parts

Specified Complexity = Information

DNA

Objections to the Teleological Argument . . .

1. The Multiverse Hypothesis
2. Anthropic Principle Flaw in Reasoning/Observer Bias
3. Evolution/Naturalism
4. Hume’s Weak Analogy
5. Imperfect Design
6. Inhospitable Cosmos
7. Who designed the Designer
8. Doesn’t Prove the God of the Bible

As we witness to the world and push back on naturalistic views, our Lord holds us to a high standard. As the Lord’s servants, we “must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting our opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will” (2 Timothy 2:24–26). “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Colossians 4:6).