

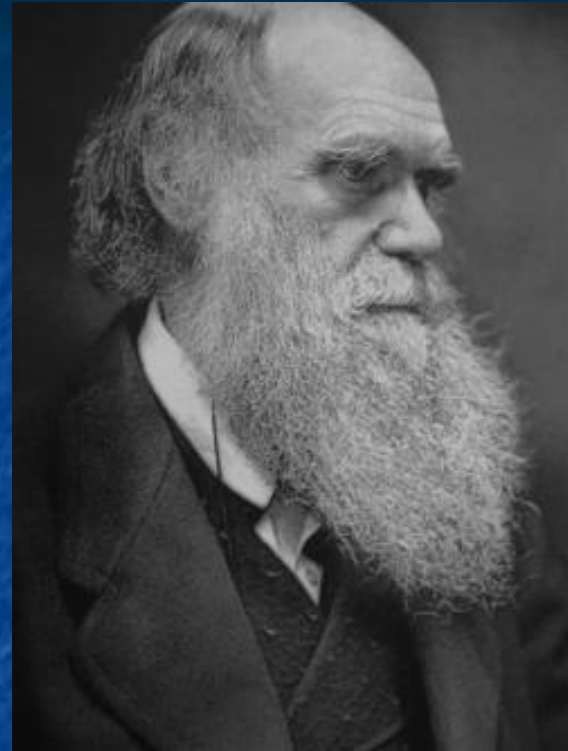
THE CASE FOR GOD

John Stewart, B.A., M.A., J.D.

www.IntelligentFaith.com

The Ultimate Questions

- Ultimate Issues--Job's question (Job 14:14)
 - Where did the universe come from?
 - Why are we here?
 - Where do we find answers to Ultimate Issues?
- Christianity's Answers
 - God has revealed Himself
 - Jesus is the ultimate special revelation
 - The Bible is the source of ultimate truth



Atheists, materialists and naturalists assume there is no supernatural. Thus, regardless of the evidence, they will never believe God exists.

Scientific “Proof”

“Contrary to popular belief, there is no such thing as a scientific proof. Proofs exist only in mathematics and logic, not in science. The primary criterion and standard of evaluation of scientific theory is evidence, not proof.”

Satoshi Kanazawa, Evolutionary Psychologist

The Challenge to “Prove God Exists Scientifically”

- This is an ignorant challenge (similar to “Can you prove scientifically that Jesus rose from the dead?”)
- Observational (experimental) science cannot determine events from the past
- Historical science can adduce evidence of the design of the universe that leads to the conclusion that there is an Intelligent Designer

Three Conclusions About God

- Theism (from Greek word *theos* meaning “God”)--God exists
- Atheism--there is no God (“agnostic” means one who does not know whether God exists)
- Pantheism-everything is God
- (“agnosticism” means one does not know)

Making the Case for God ("CALM")

- Evidence for God's Existence
 1. Cosmos had a beginning
 2. Anthropic Principle
 3. Life Itself
 4. Morality

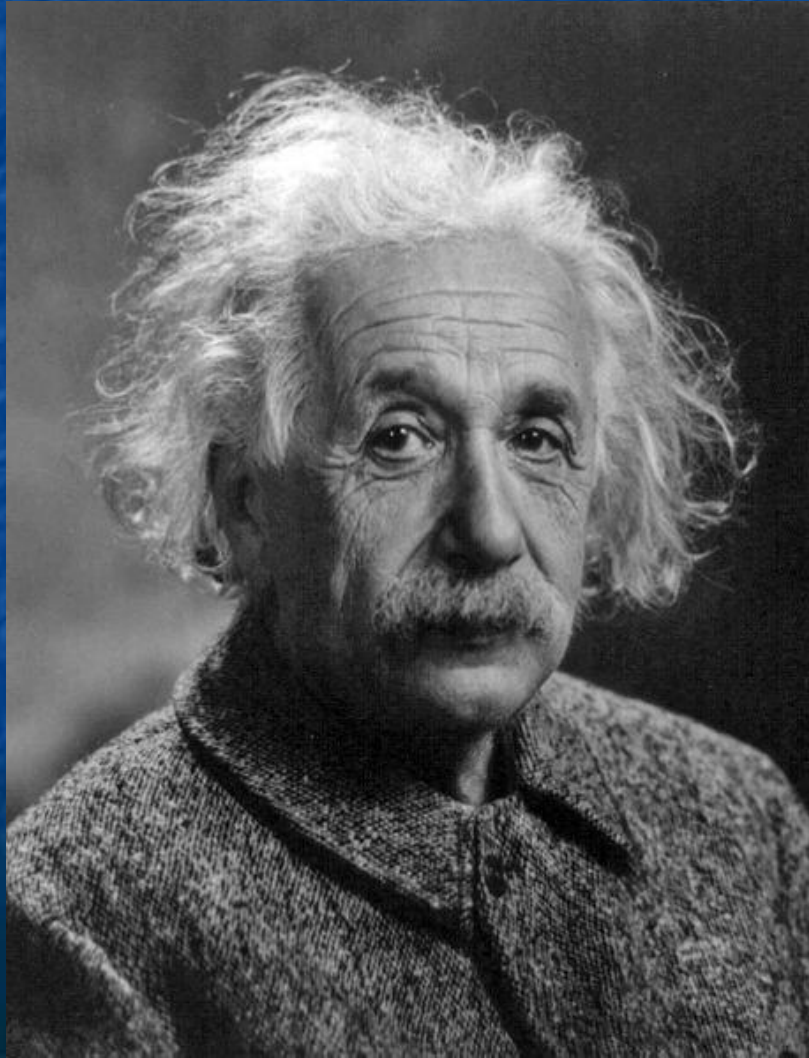
1. Cosmos Had a Beginning ("Cosmological Argument")

- Gas tank not empty (2nd law of thermodynamics, entropy)
- Expanding Universe
- Albert Einstein's General Relativity Theory
- Radiation from creation event
- Seeds of galaxies detected

Gas Tank is Not Empty

- Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropy)
- The fact that there is still usable energy in the universe means it is not eternal

Einstein Preferred an Eternal Universe--Why?



Implications of the Universe Not Being Eternal--God Exists

“Philosophically, the notion of a beginning of the present order of nature is repugnant to me...I should like to find a genuine loophole.”

Albert Einstein

Einstein, when he later could no longer support his wish for an eternal universe, he said he wanted “to know how God created the world.”

Expanding Universe

- Confirmed by Edwin Hubble in the 1920s
- Astronomers today conclude rate of expansion is increasing
- The expanding universe is evidence of a creation event and, thereby a Creator

Albert Einstein's General Relativity Theory

- Demands an absolute beginning for time, space and matter
- Demonstrates that time, space and matter are interdependent
- From Einstein's theory scientists predicted the expanding universe, radiation afterglow and galaxy seeds

Radiation from Creation Event in Cosmic Background

- 1965, Arnold Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered the afterglow (heat) from creation event
- Their discovery confirmed that the universe began from nothing in a fireball explosion of matter

Seeds of Galaxies Detected

- 1989, “seeds of galaxies” discovered (temperature variations that allowed gravity to form galaxies from matter)
- These variations demonstrate that the universe was perfectly calibrated to form galaxies

Significance of Galaxy Seeds Discovery

“If you’re religious, its like looking at God.”

Astronomer George Smoot, Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) project leader (Smoot calls the variations in temperature “machining marks from the creation of the universe” and “fingerprints of the maker”)

How Precise Did the Creation Have to Be?

Changes in either gravity or the weak force of one part in 10^{100} would have prevented a life-permitting universe.

Physicist P.C.W. Davies

The Odds of the Universe Being Here by Chance

- The odds against the original condition of the universe being suitable for later star formation (without which planets, such as Earth, could not exist) is 1 chance in $10^{10^{21}}$ (one followed by a thousand billion billion zeros)

Physicist Brandon Carter

The Bias of Secular Scientists

“Theologians are generally delighted with the proof that the Universe had a beginning, but astronomers are curiously upset...when evidence uncovered by science itself leads to a conflict with the articles of faith of our profession.”

Robert Jastrow, Astronomer, former head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, agnostic

2. Anthropic Principle--God's Existence Shown by Design

Watchmaker argument (William Paley, d. 1805)

The universe is so finely tuned that there must be an intelligent designer behind it.

(“Teleological Argument”)

Anthropic Principle

Anthropic Principle--(from Greek word *anthropos* “man”) means the universe is finely tuned to support life on Earth

We live in a life-permitting universe on a life-permitting planet—against all odds

Examples of Anthropic Principle ("Anthropic Constants")

1. Oxygen levels
2. Atmospheric transparency
3. Moon-Earth gravitational interaction
4. Carbon Dioxide levels
5. Gravity
6. Tilt of the Earth's axis
7. Rate of expansion of universe
(plus over 100 more)

Is it Possible that We are Here by Chance?

Odds that the anthropic constants (“life-permitting conditions”) would exist today for any planet in the universe by chance:

10^{138} (1 followed by 138 zeros)

(There are only 10^{40} atoms in the entire universe)

Conclusions of Open-Minded Scientists

- “As we look into the universe and identify the many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked together to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known we were coming.”

Freeman Dyson, Physicist

The Anthropic Principle as Proof of God's Existence

“Here is the cosmological proof of the existence of God--the design argument of Paley--updated and refurbished. The fine-tuning of the universe provides prima facie evidence of deistic design.”

Ed Harrison, Cosmologist

Conclusions of Open Minded Scientists

“Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly-improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say supernatural, plan.”

Arno Penzias, Nobel Prize winner

Observations about the “Multiverse Theory”

“To postulate a trillion-trillion other universes, rather than one God, in order to explain the orderliness of our universe, seems the height of irrationality.”

John Polkinghorne, Quantum Theorist

Is the “Multi-verse” Theory Even Scientific?

“Let us recognize these speculations for what they are. They are not physics, but in the strictest sense, metaphysics. There is no purely scientific reason to believe in an ensemble of universes.”

John Swinburne, Philosopher

When Scientists' Beliefs Conflict with the Evidence

“It turns out that the scientist behaves the way the rest of us do when our beliefs are in conflict with the evidence. We become irritated, we pretend the conflict does not exist, or we paper it over with meaningless phrases.”

Robert Jastrow, Astronomer

Has Science Become A Religion for Some Scientists?

“There is a kind of religion in science...every effect must have its cause; there is no First Cause...This religious faith of the scientist is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning under conditions in which the known laws of physics are not valid...When that happens, the scientist has lost control.”

Robert Jastrow, Astronomer

Is Science a Threat to Belief in God?

“Only a rookie who knows nothing about science would say science takes away from faith. If you really study science, it will bring you closer to God.”

James Tour, Nanoscientist

3. Life Itself (Best explained by an Intelligent Designer)

- Even atheists acknowledge appearance of design
- Atheism and naturalism cannot explain how life began
- Information requires intelligence

Atheists Acknowledge that Life has the Appearance of Design

“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”

Richard Dawkins, Biologist

The Blind Watchmaker, 1996, p. 1

Existence of Life is a Big Problem for Atheists and Naturalists

Problems with the atheist/naturalist view
(spontaneous generation, life from non-life)

1. Atheism (and naturalism) cannot explain how the first life got here.
2. Atheism (and naturalism) cannot explain how information gets into every cell

Atheism and Naturalism Cannot Explain how Life Began

“The emergence of life from a primordial soup on the Earth is merely an article of faith that scientists are finding difficult to shed.”

Chandra Wickramasinghe, Astrobiologist

The Odds Against Life Forming from Non-Life

“The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts after it...It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence.”

Sir Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe

Life Arising from Non-Life is a Matter of Faith--Not Science

“The belief that life on earth arose spontaneously from nonliving matter, is simply a matter of faith in strict reductionism and is based entirely on ideology.”

Hubert Yockey, Physicist and
Information Scientist

Naturalists Admit Origin of Life Requires Intelligence

- Fred Hoyle, “panspermia”
- Chandra Wickramasinghe, “panspermia”
- Richard Dawkins, possibly panspermia (see movie *Expelled*)

Problem: who created the aliens that seeded the universe? (an “infinite regress”)

Atheism Cannot Explain the Information in Each Cell

- Complexity of DNA molecule
 - DNA molecule made up of nucleotides
 - Base of each nucleotide made up of 4 chemicals (A,G,C,T)
- Genes--a long string of these letters carrying instructions to make a protein
- Genomes--a complete set of genes encoded by DNA (30-40,000 genes)

Complexity of Cell

- DNA in *E. coli* bacterium is 4 million letters (nucleotides) long (information would fill 1,000 pages in a book)
- Human genome is over 3.5 billion letters (nucleotides) long (information would fill an entire library)

Human Genome stored on DNA is like Instructions stored in a Book

The book (genome) would contain 23 chapters (chromosomes);

- Each chapter contains 48 to 250 million letters (A,C,G,T) without spaces;
- Thus, the book contains over 3.2 billion letters total;
- The book fits into a cell nucleus the size of a pinpoint;
- At least one copy of the book (all 23 chapters) is contained in most cells of our body;
- A human body has approximately 30-50 trillion cells.

DNA

- Every cell in our bodies contains 1.5 megabytes of information
- We have 30-50 trillion cells in our bodies
- Cells have 1.5 gigabytes of data
- The human body has 60 zetabytes of data
- 60 zetabytes could store every word ever spoken and everything printed since the time of Adam and have 80% space left

Complexity of the Cell as Evidence of Design

“The complexity of the simplest known type of cell is so great that it is impossible to accept that such an object could have been thrown together suddenly by some kind of freakish, vastly improbable event. Such an occurrence would be indistinguishable from a miracle.”

Michel Denton, Microbiologist

Information in DNA is Evidence for Intelligent Design

- “If science is based on experience, then science tells us that the message encoded in DNA must have originated from an intelligent cause. What kind of intelligent agent was it? On its own, science cannot answer this question; it must leave it to religion and philosophy. But that should not prevent science from acknowledging evidences for an intelligent cause origin....”

Dean Kenyon, Biophysicist

Why Atheists and Materialists Won't Acknowledge a Designer

- Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs...because we have a prior commitment to materialism...materialism is absolute for we cannot let a divine foot in the door.” Richard Lewontin, Harvard University

The Foolishness of Materialism

- Richard Lewontin from Harvard is an example of the contempt many scientists have for the supernatural and will deny the existence of God as the Intelligent Designer at all costs.
- Psalm 14:1 “The fool has said in his heart ‘There is no God.’ ”

4. Morality

(It presumes moral lawgiver)

- Dostoyevsky's aphorism
- Wittgenstein's dictum
- "Atheist morality" is a contradiction in terms
- The consequences of morality without God
- Judgment at Nuremberg

Limitations on Arguments for God's Existence

- Theism is essential but not sufficient for salvation
- People need to be guided to the truth
- Proving God exists is not the end of task
- Next step is the reasonable conclusion that God would tell us what we need to know
- The Bible is then presented as the answer
- From the Bible we make the case for Jesus

Conclusion on the Case for God

- Cosmological argument (“God as ‘first cause’”) is supported by science
- Anthropic Principle (Teleological argument, “Design presumes a Designer”) is supported by science
- Life’s existence is best explained supernaturally
- Moral Law presumes a Moral Lawgiver

Therefore, based upon the evidence, there is an Intelligent Designer (“God”) who created the universe

Does it Take More Faith to Be an Atheist than to Believe in God?

“The most reasonable belief is that we came from nothing, by nothing and for nothing.”
Quentin Smith, atheist

“To be an atheist requires an indefinitely greater measure of faith than to receive all the great truths which atheism would deny.”

Joseph Addison

Atheists, Beware!

A young man who wishes to remain a sound atheist cannot be too careful of his reading.”

C.S. Lewis, former atheist

If there is no God, why is there something rather than nothing?

- Two options:

1. no one created something out of nothing
2. someone created something out of nothing

Which is more reasonable?

God is the Most Reasonable Answer to Why Anything Exists

“For the scientist who has live by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*

The Verdict: God exists

- There is substantial evidence for the existence of God (the Intelligent Designer)
- It takes more faith to be an atheist than to believe in God (theist)

“To be an atheist requires an indefinitely greater measure of faith than to receive all the great truths which atheism would deny.”

Joseph Addison

Atheism

The belief that there was nothing and nothing happened to nothing and then nothing magically exploded for no reason, creating everything and then a bunch of everything magically rearranged itself for no reason what so ever into self-replicating bits which then turned into dinosaurs.

Makes perfect sense.