

Does God Exist?

Is there really a God? This is the most important question I can ever ask and the true answer to this question will determine the course of the rest of my life and beyond. This question has been dealt with in a variety of ways, producing a variety of answers. The most important question deserves the greatest care in weighing the evidence and coming to a conclusion. With the evidence provided we don't have to just hope or wonder if there is a God, we can confidently say, "Yes, there really is a God."

Those who are skeptical, those who are antagonistic toward believers, and sometimes even honest seekers will issue the challenge, "Prove it! Prove God exists." However, no one can prove any of the alternate theories about our beginnings or the non-existence of God – so to demand absolute proof (for example, to meet God) is unreasonable and illogical. When cases go to court and come before judges and juries they cannot go back in time and observe what actually happened. In the US court system, the criteria for determining innocence or guilt is based on the "presumption of innocence," meaning a defendant is considered innocent until the prosecution proves their guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt" through evidence presented in court. Since we are unable to go back and observe our origins and we are presently unable to meet God face-to-face, why would we hope for more than to weigh the evidence, pro and con, and conclude which is more reasonable, more probable – that God exists or that He does not? Further, both in a court case and when considering evidence for the existence of God, one must determine to be unbiased and impartial in order to allow the evidence to lead to a proper conclusion. Bias and/or prejudice will poison the process and we will not be able to have confidence in our conclusion.

Since absolute proof is unattainable for both the believer in God and the unbeliever, both must have a certain amount of "faith" in their position. Let me pose a question: Do you believe that there are electrical wires running through the walls of your house? Have you ever seen them? How can you say with certainty that they are there? Maybe you base your position on the fact that outlets supply energy, and switches turn lights on and off. Still, you can't say you have "absolute proof" because you haven't seen the wires. You base your conclusion on the evidence presented. This must be the same process we use in determining the existence of God. As the Bible says, "Faith is... the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). This is not blind faith, but faith based on real evidence. We have the witness of experience, reason, observation, etc. to reinforce our faith and be confident in our conclusion.

EXPERIENCE

Your experiences and interactions in the world will largely influence your decision-making. The Bible tells us that God gives us proof of His existence in the world around us. It also says that some will ignore this proof and bring God's wrath upon themselves (cf. Romans 1:18-21). The Psalmist asserts that the very skies above us are the signature of God's greatness in His creative power (Psalm 19:1). From the earliest civilizations man has yearned for his Creator (cf. Ecclesiastes 3:11). There has always been some sense of morality among mankind – how do we explain this? If we are (as Darwin asserts) simply the result of the survival of the fittest, why would we feel the need to do good and treat others equitably? Couldn't that be counterproductive to our survival? And yet, man believes in morality so much that laws and courts are in place to assure justice. This deep sense of morality can only be attributed to being made by God in His image. This is not "proof positive" of God's existence but it is enough to start the investigation. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). This innate sense of morality is but one way Jesus "knocks" at the door of our intellect. He assures us that our efforts to find truth will be rewarded (cf. Matthew 7:7,8). To ignore the evidence, fail to search, and simply remain ignorant will not be excused by God (Romans 1:20). This, we are told, is the path of the fool (Psalm 14:1).

REASON

The Cosmological Argument. Cosmological has to do with things relating to the origin of the universe. The 13th century philosopher Thomas Aquinas is first credited with documenting the cosmological argument (along with four other arguments) for the existence of God. The argument is based on the idea that everything that begins to exist has a cause. Aquinas argued that this chain of causes and effects cannot go on forever, so there must be a first cause that is uncaused (and eternal). One is forced to decide which is more reasonable: that the universe is eternal or that there is an eternal Creator - GOD.

The Teleological Argument. Also known as the argument from design, this is a rational argument that claims that the complexity of nature is evidence of an intelligent designer, such as God. From the complexity and precise location of the planets to human DNA, the presence of intricate design is so blatant that even atheists are forced to admit this (and then scramble for some alternative theory). The engineering of human DNA is more complex than our modern computers. The precise distance between the earth and

the sun perfectly sustains life and any alteration, either closer or further away, would destroy life. If you saw footprints in the sand, what would you conclude? Something or someone made those prints, right? Footprints in the sand are not complex at all and yet we are led to a logical conclusion about their existence. Design argues for a designer. The complex design of our bodies, our world, and our universe argue for a super-intelligent designer – GOD.

The Moral Argument. This line of reasoning considers concepts like good and evil, right and wrong, what is ethical, etc. These are concepts that we believe should be in place, not just observations of what happens in society. Where did these concepts originate? They seem completely foreign to a society that exists solely because it is the fittest to survive. We do not accuse a lion of any crime if it takes a life, but we charge a human being who does the same thing with murder (sometimes punishable as a capital offense). Where did this distinction come from? And, why do we see some type of morality employed in civilizations throughout history in every culture? To say that such is meaningless is to ignore the facts. This leads us to the conclusion that there must have been some moral standard given to man. In others words, moral laws imply a moral lawgiver – GOD.

The Ontological Argument. This is a field having to do with the state of “being.” This argument, while it may not convince someone of the existence of God in and of itself, challenges us to make a decision. It looks at those things that exist or could exist in comparison to things that do not or cannot exist. It could be illustrated like this:

Ontological Argument

| NON-EXISTING | | EXISTING | |
|--|---|--|------------|
| Impossible | Contingent | Necessary | |
| <p>“a”</p> <p>e.g., <u>square circles</u> cannot exist</p> | <p>“b”</p> <p>e.g., <u>unicorns</u> do not exist, but <u>might</u> (not impossible)</p> | <p>“c”</p> <p>e.g., <u>Washington Monument</u> <u>does</u> exist, but <u>might not</u></p> | <p>“d”</p> |

Where Does God Go???

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Human archeology lends credence to the validity and accuracy of the Bible. Rivers, streams, regions and cities mentioned in the Bible are constantly being confirmed by archeological data. Even some cities and people mentioned in the Bible that men have previously disputed their existence have later been confirmed. For example, traditionally, knowledge about Midian and the Midianites' existence was based solely upon Biblical and classical sources, but in 2010 a reference to Midian was identified in a Taymanitic inscription dated to before the 9th century BC (from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midian>). [also see 50 Bible people confirmed by archeology at <https://library.biblicalarchaeology.org/article/archaeology-confirms-50-real-people-in-the-bible/>] Local laws and customs are accurately recorded in the Bible. Since this book has been verified on so many levels, it would indicate that it's information on the existence and nature of God can be trusted.

Does God exist? The great preponderance of evidence says, "Yes."