

Teen Winter Retreat—Message Two—Does God Exist?

Introduction

- Genesis 1:1—The very first verse of the Bible establishes the following assertions
 1. God exists and did so before his creation
 2. The universe had a beginning
- Many in our day question whether or not God exists or that he created the universe. These people rely on naturalistic/scientific explanations to explain the origins of the universe and human beings.
- There are couple terms that you need to understand:
 1. Skeptic—says “I doubt that God exists”
 2. Agnostic—says “I don’t know (or can’t know) whether God exists.”
 3. Atheist—says “I know that God does not exist
- Despite the differences in definition many of the arguments used by these people are the same.
- Romans 1—speaks to the fact that people can know God through his creation.

What are the Options?

- Option 1--The Universe is Self Caused or created itself.
- This is impossible for the following reasons:
 1. It violates the law of non-contradiction which states that a proposition cannot be true and not true at the same time and in the same relationship.
 2. For the universe to have crated itself, it must have both existed and not existed at the same time. In other words, in order for the universe to have caused itself to be, it could not have existed prior to itself.
 3. To say the universe created itself is the same thing as saying I don’t exist.
- Option 2—The Universe was created by something or someone else.
- Option 3—The Universe was uncaused or eternal
- This popular atheistic model violates the following scientific evidence:
 1. S—The Second Law of Thermodynamics—the universe is running out of usable energy. Read example form *I Don’t Have Enough Faith* (Page 76).

- This is called the Law of Entropy or simply stated stuff wears out.
 - If allowed to continue on its current course the universe will eventually run out of energy and die. We know that anything that has an ending also had a beginning and anything that has a beginning also has a cause.
2. U—The Universe is Expanding—Read *I Don't Have Enough Faith* (Page 79)
 - So in this case we see that the evolutionists theory actually comes back to haunt his basic argument.
 3. R—Radiation From the Big Bang—cosmic background radiation is light and heat from the initial explosion. This light is no longer visible because its wavelength has been stretched by the expanding universe to wavelengths slightly shorter than those produced by a microwave oven.
 4. G—Great Galaxy Seeds—These ripples of energy show that the expansion of the universe was precisely tweaked to cause just enough matter to congregate to allow galaxy formation, but not enough to cause the universe to collapse back on itself.
 5. E—Einstein's Theory of General Relativity—this theory demands an absolute beginning for time, space, and matter. It shows that time, space, and matter are co-relative.
 6. Philosophically it make no sense to hold that the universe is eternal. Consider the following argument:
 - An infinite number of days has no end.
 - But today is the end day of history (being a collection of days)
 - Therefore, there were not an infinite number of days before today. Time must have had a beginning.

Discussion of Option 2—The Universe Was Created

- There are basically three lines of evidence that prove the universe was created and therefore speak to the existence of God.
- Simply stated there are cause and effect, design, and morality. We will discuss each of them in that order.
- Argument 1--The cause and effect argument is known as the Cosmological Argument. It states:

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
 2. The universe had a beginning.
 3. Therefore the universe had a cause.
- Since no effect can be greater than its cause, whatever caused the universe must be greater than the universe itself.
 - Nothing in the universe is able to explain its own existence. No contingent being (one whose existence is dependent on another) can cause itself to exist, the first cause must be uncaused or self-existent. A self-existent being would really be the first cause, and all contingent beings would ultimately depend on this cause for their existence.
 - In short, to explain the existence of a contingent, noneternal universe there has to be a noncontingent being (Creator) who is absolutely independent of the physical universe.
 - God is both self-existent and eternal
 1. Exodus 3:14, John 5:26
 2. Deut. 33:27, Revelation 4:10
 - Therefore the law of cause and effect proves the existence of God.
 - Argument 2—The design argument is known as the Teleological Argument. It states:
 1. Every design has a designer.
 2. The universe has highly complex design.
 3. Therefore, the universe had a designer.
 - Every watch requires a watch maker. Use an example of finding a watch on the forest floor.
 - The universe is extremely fine-tuned (Anthropic Principle). Examples of this principle:
 1. 21% of the earth's atmosphere is oxygen. If it were 25% spontaneously combustion would occur. If it were 15% we would all suffocate.
 2. Atmospheric Transparency—how much sun light warms the earth.
 3. Moon-Earth Gravitational Interaction
 4. Gravity
 5. 23° tilt of the earth's axis.
 - Atheist and evolutionists are asking you to believe the absurd, that the highly structured environment that we live in happened by accident and is the result of limited scientific interaction.

- In science there is a difference between primary and secondary causes.
- Primary Cause—is a first cause that explains singularities—events that only happened once and had no natural explanation.
- Secondary Cause—are the laws that govern the way things naturally operate
- Therefore we can conclude that there are two different types of science
- Operation Science (Empirical)—deals with the way things normally operate. It examines how the world normally works in the present. It studies things that happen over and over again in a regular and repeated way. Operation science seeks answers that are testable by repeating the experiment over and over, and falsifiable if the cause does not always yield the same effect.
- Origin Science (Foresic)—Origin science on the other hand studies past singularities, rather than present normalities. It looks at how things began, not at how they work. It studies things that only happened once and, by their nature, don't happen again.
- Evolutionists have applied the principles of operation science to the study of origins. They are seeking regular and repeated causes for events that occurred only once. They have forced the operations that are presently working in the world to explain how the world got here in the first place.
- “Good morning, have a good time at the Winter Retreat. I love you.” Now this is just one specified and complex message and we have not even begun discussing human DNA.
- It is valid science to look for intelligent primary causes to events that show signs of intelligence.
- Present experience tells us that an intelligent cause should be sought wherever we find specified complexity.
- The greater the design, the greater the designer. A thousand monkeys sitting at typewriters for millions of years would never produce Hamlet. But Shakespeare did it on the first try. The more complex the design, the greater the intelligence required to produce it.
- Romans 1 is true
- Argument 3—The morality argument is expressed through the existence of the Moral Law. It states:

1. Every law has a law giver.

2. There is a Moral Law.
 3. Therefore, there must be a Moral Law Giver
- Romans 2:12-15
 - There are nine ways to know that the moral law exists:
 1. The Moral Law is undeniable
 2. We know it by our reactions
 3. It is the basis of human rights
 4. It is the unchanging standard of justice.
 5. It defines a real difference between moral positions (Mother Teresa vs. Hitler)
 6. Since we know what absolutely wrong, there must be an absolute standard of rightness.
 7. The Moral Law is the grounds for political and social dissent.
 8. If there were no Moral Law then we would not make excesses for violating it.
 - A moral law is a prescription, and prediction come only from prescribers. Unlike the laws of nature (which are descriptive), moral laws are prescriptive: Moral laws don't describe what is they prescribe what ought to be. They are not simply a description of the way people do behave but are imperatives as to how they should behave.
 - Have we used the Bible that much yet in our studies? No, but that is actually a good thing because it demonstrates that you can debunk evolution and atheism based on the Scientific evidence alone. Now as we turn to the subject of the Bible in our next study the nail will be driven through the coffin.