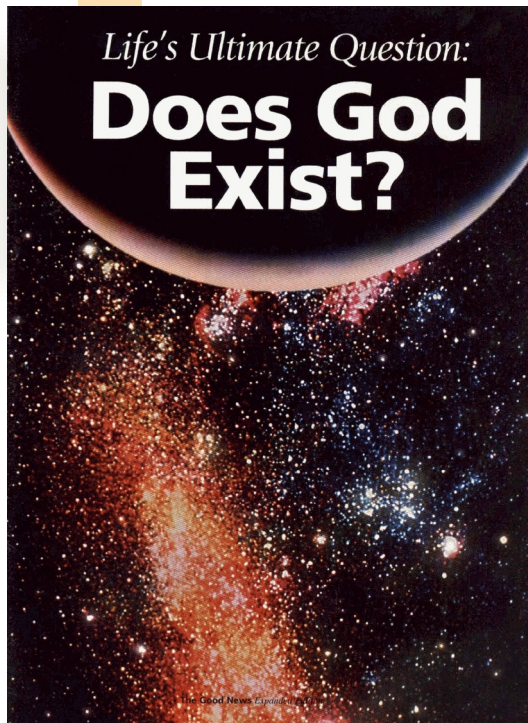
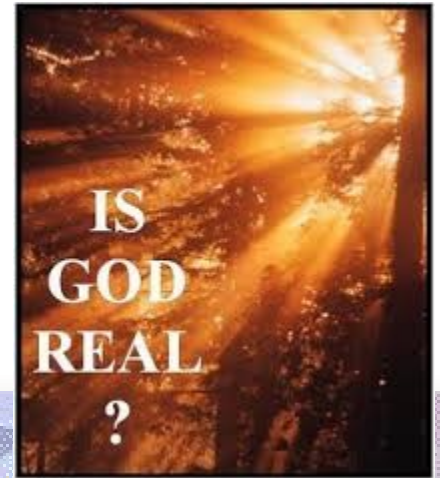


The Reality of God



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“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” Rom. 1:20

The Reality of God

■ Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?

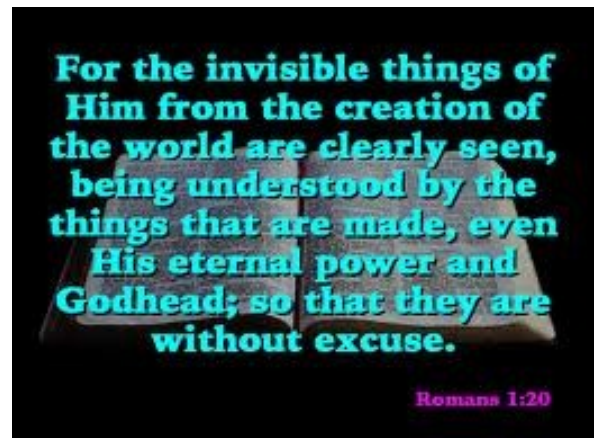
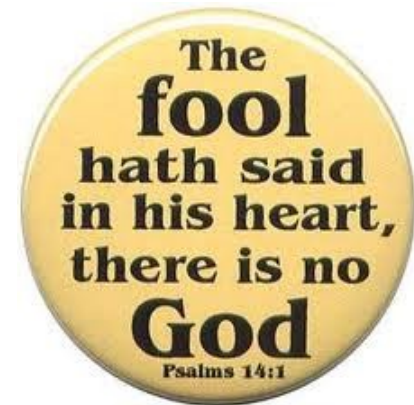
■ Arguments & Evidence

■ God Revealed Through:

1. Nature (General Revelation)
2. Scripture (Special Revelation)
3. Christ (God Incarnate)
4. Explanatory Power of Human Experience – Theism or Atheism?

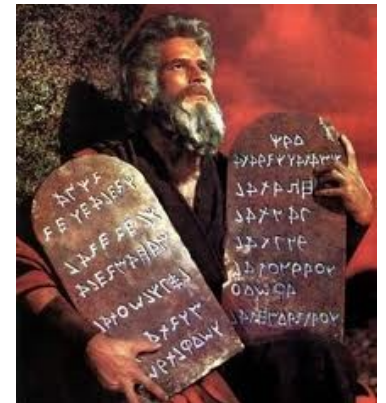
■ In Conclusion

Rom. 1:19-20



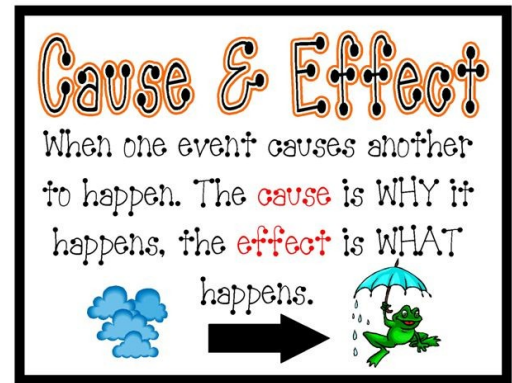
1. God Is Revealed Thru Nature

- Cosmological argument
 - Beginning of the universe
- Teleological (Design) argument(s)
 - Design and order in the universe, e.g Anthropic Principle
 - Design of life
- Moral argument
 - Moral law implies a moral law giver
- Ontological argument
 - The concept of God – greatest conceivable and necessary Being



1a. Cosmological Argument

- Premise – everything that had a beginning had a cause
 - Based on Law of Causality
 - Everything has a cause
- The universe had a beginning
 - Einstein’s General Relativity
 - Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropy)
- Therefore the universe had a cause
 - “Supernatural forces are at work ...”





Characteristics of First Cause

- Self-existent, timeless, non-material
- Creator of time, space and matter
- Outside of time, space and matter
- Omnipresent – without limits
- Omnipotent – creator of the universe
- Omniscient – intelligent designer
- Personal – choose to convert “nothingness” into time-space-material universe

1b. Teleological (Design) Argument

- Every design had a designer
 - A watch requires a watchmaker (Paley)
- The universe has highly complex design
 - Verified by the Anthropic Principle
 - Universe fine-tuned (designed) to make life possible on earth
- Therefore the universe had a Designer
 - Earth was designed for us



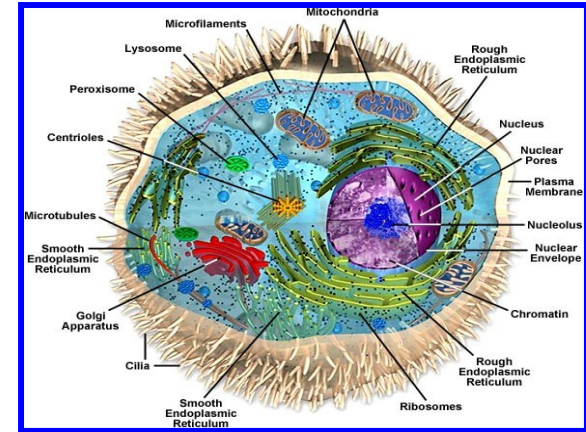
Anthropic Principle

- 122 very narrowly defined constants identified
 - Oxygen level in earth's atmosphere ~21%
 - Gravity force is a precise constant
 - Expansion rate of universe
 - Jupiter orbit protects Earth
 - Thickness of Earth's crust controls release of oxygen
 - Rotation rate of Earth controls temperature differences
 - Tilt of earth at 23 degrees is just right
- Probability of 1 chance in $10^{**}138$ (ZERO/NIL)



Teleological Argument – Life

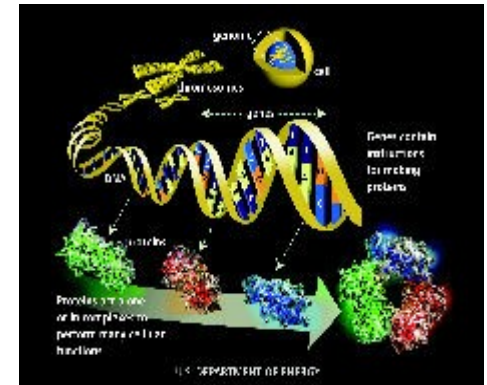
- Living organisms
 - Are complex
 - Appear designed
 - Contain information



- Life from non-life is impossible
 - Spontaneously generated life never observed
 - Probability is effectively ZERO
- Therefore life requires a Designer

Complexity of Life

- Life requires DNA (information)
- DNA contains instructions for building and replicating living things
- Irreducible complexity
 - All parts required to function
- Specified complexity
 - Order of amino acids is specified in proteins
 - Information in a “simple” amoeba requires 1000 complete sets of an encyclopedia



1c. Moral Argument

- Every law has a law giver
 - Legislation requires a legislature
 - Prescription requires a prescriber
- There is a Moral Law Rom. 2:15
 - Fundamental sense of right and wrong
 - Conscience (manifestation of Moral Law)
 - Absolute (and universal) moral obligations
- Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver
 - Source higher than ourselves
 - Source of our human rights

Existence of The Moral Law

- The Moral Law is undeniable
- We know it by our reactions
- It is the basis of human rights
- An unchanging standard of justice
- Defines a real difference between moral positions
- We know what is absolutely wrong – there must be an absolute standard of righteousness
- It is the grounds for political & social dissent
- If there were no Moral Law, then we wouldn't make excuses for violating it



1d. Ontological Argument

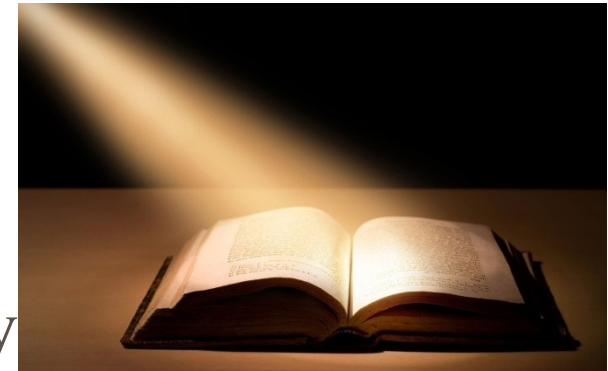
- Ontology – concerned with the nature and relations of being
- Argues from the concept of God to His existence
- Does not begin with the facts of experience
 - Prior to and apart from experience
- Defines God as the greatest conceivable Being
 - A Being who has every possible perfection
- God, by definition, is a necessary Being
 - Cannot not exist
- Not generally accepted argument



Who is the Greatest?
God is that than which
nothing is greater
(Anselm's Ontological Argument)

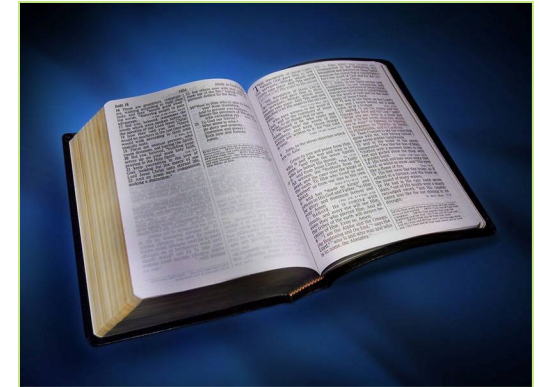
2. God Is Revealed Thru Scripture

- Inspired Word of God, inerrant in its original form
 - a. The Bible is God's Word
 - Written by 40 authors over 1500+ years
 - Internally consistent
 - b. Archaeology confirms the Bible
 - Dead Sea scrolls, Ebla tablets, etc.
 - c. The Bible is reliable scientifically
 - Touches on multiple disciplines of science
 - d. Science supports Creation, not Evolution
 - Based on forensic evidence



2a. The Bible Is God's Word

- The Bible is unique
- How we got the Bible
- Is Scripture inspired?
- Christ's teaching on the OT
- Christ's view of the NT
- Historical reliability of the OT
- Historical reliability of the NT
- Supernatural wisdom of the Bible





Unique In Its Teaching

- Prophecy – 1000+, many already fulfilled
- History – 5 centuries, **1 Sam. -> 2 Chron.**
- Character
 - Deals with sins of its characters that reflect badly on God's leaders and chosen people
 - Sins of the patriarchs, **Gen. 12:11-13**
 - Sins of the people, **Deut. 9:24**
 - King David's adultery, **2 Sam. 11-12**
 - Gospel writers point out faults of the Apostles, **Matt. 8:10-26**
 - Disorder within the church is exposed, **1 Cor. 1:11**



The Books of the Bible as Canon

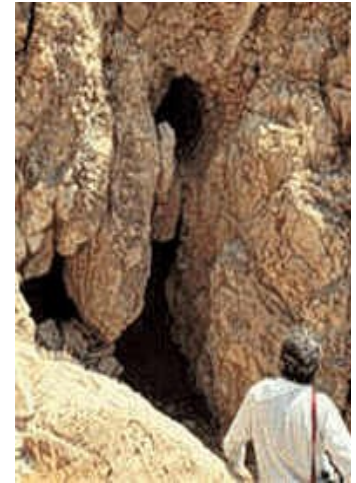
- Canon – officially accepted list of books
- How were the books recognized?
 - Was the book written by a prophet of God?
 - If yes, then it was the Word of God
 - Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?
 - Did the message tell the truth about God?
 - Does it come with the power of God?
 - Was it accepted by the people of God?

Time, Original to Earliest MSS

Work/Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Years Elapsed	Number of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1300	7
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1500	49
Iliad (Homer)	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
Herodotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
New Testament	40-95 AD	125 AD	30	24,000

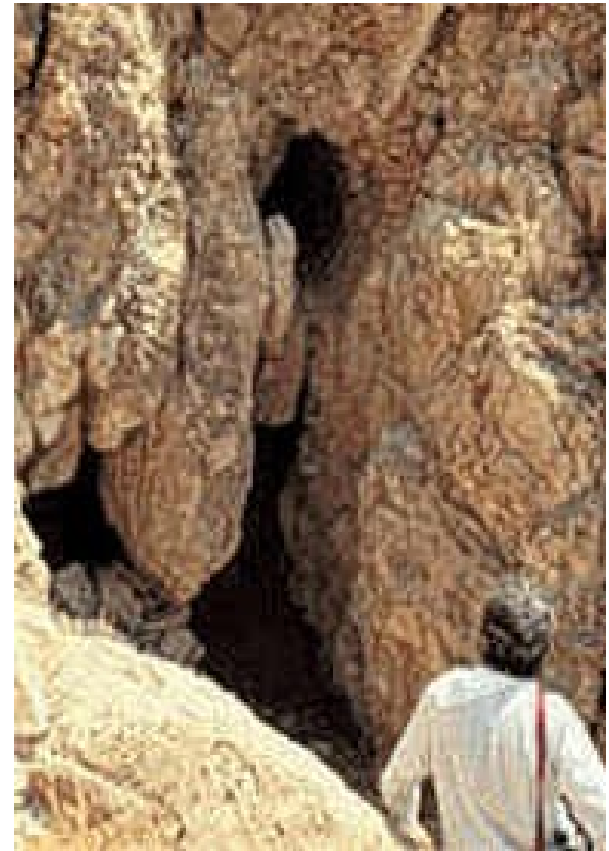
2b. Archaeology Verifies the Bible

- What is Archaeology?
- The Dead Sea Scrolls
- Evidence for the Accuracy of the Bible
 - Internal, Copy comparison, Archaeology
- The Ebla Tablets
- The Divisions of Genesis
- Genesis and Origins
 - Creation, The Flood, Languages
- Archaeology and the OT
- Archaeology and the NT
- Archaeology Confirms Accuracy of the Bible

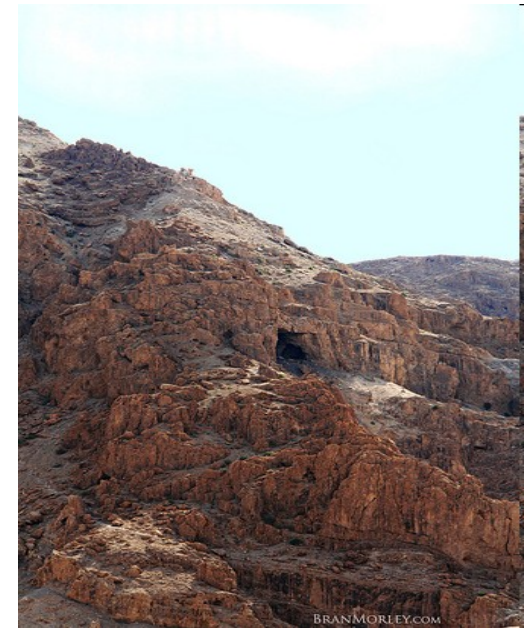


The Dead Sea Scrolls

In 1947 a Bedouin shepherd boy, searching for a lost goat, threw a stone into a cave opening in Qumran by the Dead Sea and heard the sound of shattering pottery. His inquisitiveness led him to investigate and discover the first of what was to become known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The world found out about them about one year later in 1948. The impact of this find on verifying the reliability of our Holy Scriptures cannot be overemphasized.



Where Is The Dead Sea?



Dead Sea Scroll Facts



- 40,000 scroll fragments were found in jars in eleven different caves
- 35,000 scroll fragments from 400 manuscripts were found in Cave #4
- All scrolls were produced prior to 67-73 AD (time of first Jewish-Roman war)
- Literary remains of a Community that lived at Qumran from ~135 BC to ~67 AD
- Scrolls contain samples of all OT books except Esther

More Dead Sea Scroll Facts

- Complete scroll of Isaiah (dated about 125 B.C.) was found in Cave #1
- No NT book scrolls found (too early)
- Large number of Jewish non-canonical writings
- Largest scroll, the Temple Scroll, was 27 feet long



William F. Albright, the dean of American archaeology, called it “the greatest manuscript discovery of modern times.”



Results of Dead Sea Finds

- Extant copies of books more than 1000 years older than the extant copies previously known to exist
- Significantly increased our knowledge of what happened to the Hebrew text from 1000-800 BC, from which time we trace our present Hebrew Bible
- Hebrew text has undergone much less change than previously thought
- Hebrew Bible text is treated with greater respect by scholars today than it has been for a long time
- Brought to light much knowledge about the Jewish sect of the Essenes



Discoveries in Archaeology

- Important finds over the last 150 years have resulted in better understanding of history
- Finds have resulted in better understanding of ancient chronology
- Important finds at land of Ur, Sumerian King lists, astronomical texts in Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Dates of earliest historical dynasties in Egypt and Mesopotamia have been reduced over the years, from seventh millennium B.C. to 3000 B.C.

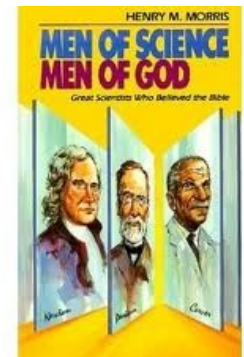


Evidence From Archaeology

- Confirms historical accuracy of the Bible
 - Ancient sites, civilizations, characters
- Improves our understanding of the Bible
 - Nuances and use of biblical words
- Illustrates/explains Bible passages
 - Events, time, culture, society, politics
- 1000's of archives discovered, but
 - Alexandria Library (1M+ MS) lost in 7th century fire
- Many archaeological sites yet to be excavated
 - Our knowledge is still limited

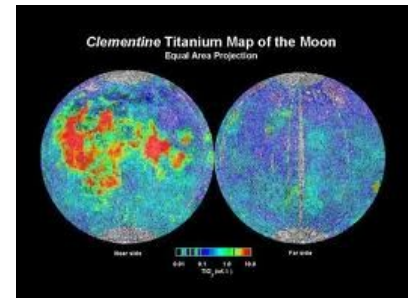
2c. The Bible Is Reliable Scientifically

- We trust the Bible for spiritual truth
- Prophecy, history, geography, and archaeology confirm the truth of the Bible
- Do we trust the Bible for truth in science?
 - Astronomy, geophysics, geology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, physics, biology
- There are many Biblical references to nature and natural processes
 - Authors use everyday language
 - Amazingly accurate
 - Anticipatory scientific insights in the Bible



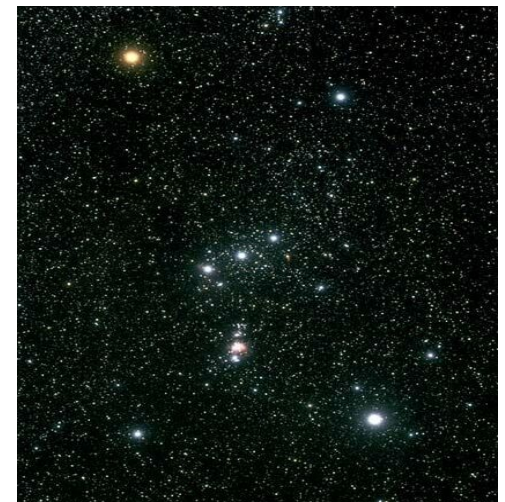
Astronomy – The Moon

- **Job 25:5**, “If even the moon does not shine ...”
 - The moon itself is not a source of light
 - Moon rocks filled with titanium, a better reflector than diamonds
- **Ps. 89:37**, “It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky.”
 - The moon itself is not a source of light, but a reflector of light from the sun
- The moon is not a source of light



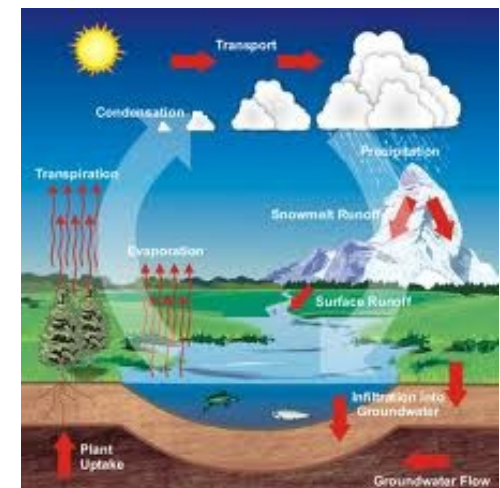
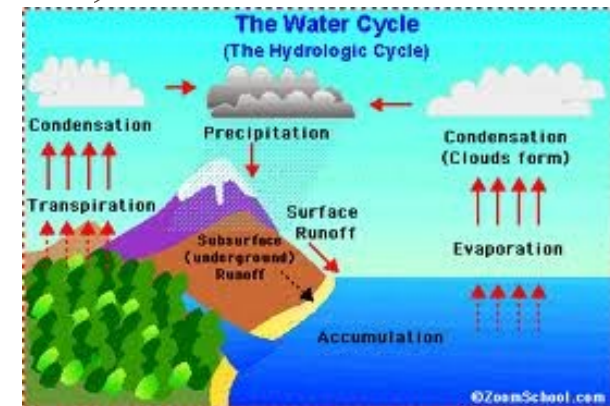
Constellations

- **Job 38:31** “Can you bind the cluster of Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?”
 - God told Job in ~ 2000 BC that the seven stars of Pleiades were bound together and the stars of Orion are not
 - Pleiades used to be called the “seven sisters”
 - We learned [20th century] that the stars of Pleiades are gravitationally bound and the stars of Orion are not



Hydrology

- **Eccl. 1:7**, All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. [*Solomon in 935 B.C.*]
 - The hydrologic cycle was understood by man only in the 17th century
 - 1100 billion gallons of water per hour flow into the sea – sea does not fill up
- **Is. 55:10**, For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
 - World's food supply is made possible by the distribution of water



Oceanography

- Ps. 8:8, “The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.”
- Matthew Maury undertook research project based on this Scripture verse (1841-1861)
 - There are paths in the sea
 - Also aware of “wind circuits” in **Eccl. 1:6-7**
 - Concluded that there must be “currents in the ocean”
 - Plotted wind circuits and ocean currents as an aid to navigation of the seas



Maury and Oceanography

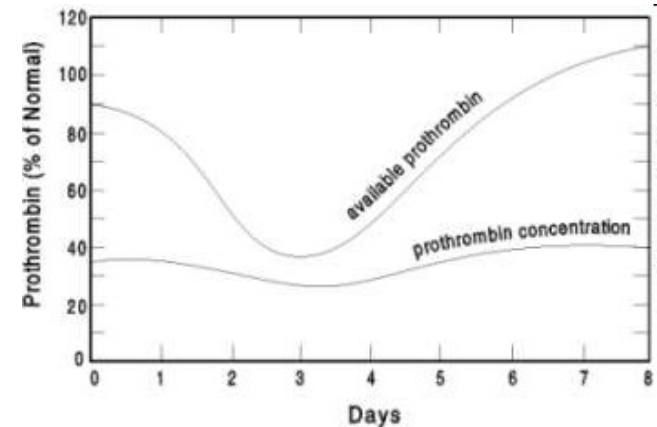
- Gulf stream is a “path in the sea”
 - 40 miles wide, 2000 feet deep
 - Flows from Gulf of Mexico up through the Atlantic
 - More paths in the sea discovered since
- Monument erected in Maury’s home state of VA

“Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the Genius Who First Snatched from the Ocean and Atmosphere the Secret of Their Laws. His Inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8, Psalm 107:23-24, and Ecclesiastes 1:6.”



The Immune System

- **Gen. 17:12**, “He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.”
 - Eighth day is the only day in the entire life of the newborn that the blood clotting element prothrombin is above 100%
 - Medical science has discovered that this is when the immune system is at its peak





2d. Science Supports Creation

- What Does the Bible Say About Creation?
- What Do Jesus And The Apostles Say About Creation?
- What Does Science Say About Creation?
 - The Creation and Evolution Models of Origins
 - Which Model Best Fits The Scientific Evidence?
- Challenges to Evolutionism
- Does It Matter What We Believe About Creation?



NT References to Gen. 1-11

- Every NT writer refers to the early chapters of Genesis
- Jesus Christ referred to each of the first seven chapters of Genesis
- Almost all NT books have references to Genesis 1-11
- Every chapter of Genesis 1-11 except chapter 8 is referred to somewhere in NT
- Every NT writer accepted these early chapters as historically accurate

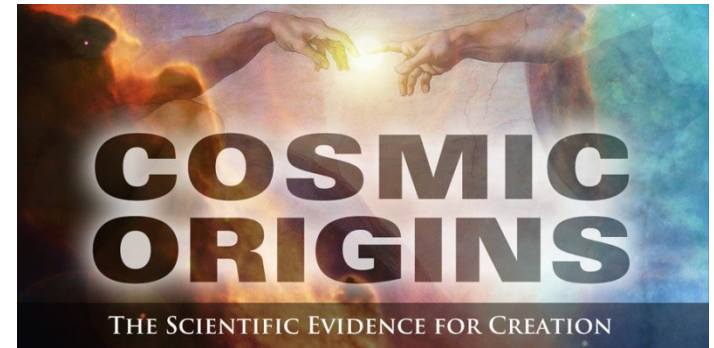


Removing Genesis 1-11

- Removes true history
- Removes the foundation from all future history
- Rejects the teachings of Peter, Paul, other Biblical writers, Christ Himself
- Eventually leads to apostasy

Origins Models and Scientific Evidence

- Two Origins Models
 - Creation and Evolution
- Looking at the Evidence
 - Origin of matter, energy and natural law
 - Classification of biological organisms
 - Mutations and natural selection
 - Origin of man
 - Origin of life (probability)
 - The fossil record





Challenges to Evolutionism

1. Evolution has never been observed
2. Evolution violates the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics
3. There are NO credible transitional fossils
4. Life did not originate from non-life by random chance
5. Evolution is only a theory – it has not been proved



The Bible is Trustworthy

- Laws of science consistent with Creationism
- Signs of intelligence in the universe
- The probability of life from non-life is zero
- Abrupt appearance of fully-formed animals
- The missing links are still missing
- Man did not evolve from ape-like creatures
- Catastrophism explains the “geologic column”
- There is NO credible evidence for evolution!
- Science supports Creationism



3. God Revealed Through The Incarnate Christ

- a. Jesus is God
 - Born in the flesh
 - Claimed to be God, the “I AM”
 - Prophesied His own death and resurrection
- b. Prophecies fulfilled
 - Messianic
 - Kings, nations, cities events
- c. Christ’s resurrection
 - Burial, empty tomb, post resurrection appearances
 - Sincere belief of the disciples



3a. Jesus is God

- Jesus did live on earth 2000 years ago
- Jesus claimed to be God – and IS God
- Evidence in His nature and His actions
- The Apostles believed that He was God
- Eyewitnesses have verified His birth, sinless nature, miracles, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, fulfillment of prophecies
- The church was founded based on His Truth claims
- Jesus and ten Apostles died for the Truth



Other Established Facts

- Early non-Christian references
- Jesus rose in 3 days, as He prophesied
- Jesus' deity affirmed:
 - By the Apostles
 - By leaders of first generation church
 - Not disputed by eyewitnesses
 - Taught within a few decades of His death
 - Completely established by church as doctrine by end of first century AD
- Jesus IS God!



3b. Prophecies Fulfilled

- Over 1000 prophecies in Bible
 - More than ½ fulfilled
 - Messianic + kings, nations, cities, Jews
- 300 Messianic prophecies
 - 109 fulfilled in Christ's First Coming
 - Birth place, born of virgin, line of David, etc.
- Probability of fulfillment by chance?
 - Mathematically impossible
- Bible confirmed by accuracy of its prophecies



3c. Christ's Resurrection

- Four indisputable facts:
 - Burial in tomb of rich Jew Arimathea
 - Empty tomb
 - 12 Post Resurrection appearances
 - Disciples' sincere belief
- Stolen body, swoon, hallucination, conspiracy
 - Impossible explanations
- Possible explanations:
 - Lie, Legend, Lunatic, Lord
- The only credible explanation – risen Lord



4. The Power of Human Experience: Theism or Atheism?

- Kalam cosmological argument
- Design and order in the universe
- Possibility of human knowledge
- Reality of universal unchanging truths
- Existence of absolute moral laws
- Respect for human life
- Existence of evil (cause and defeat)
- Human consciousness
- Human free will and guilt

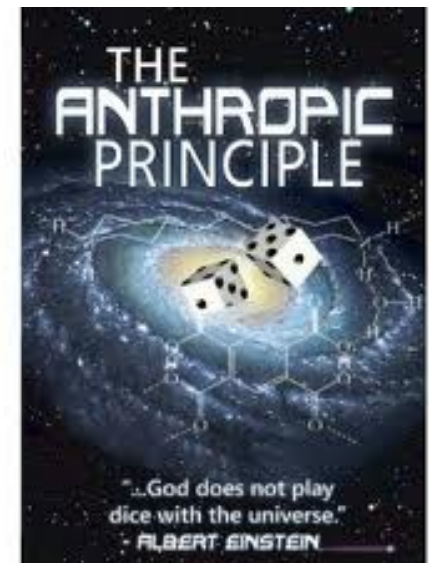
Kalam Cosmological Argument

- Three premises
 1. Whatever began to exist must have a cause
 2. The universe began to exist
 3. Thus, the universe had a cause
- Premise 1: Law of causality
- Premise 2: 2nd Law of thermodynamics
- Premise 3: The universe came into existence by an eternal, uncaused Cause (God)
- Chance or Law cannot explain the universe
- Beginning of the universe supports Theism



Evidence Supporting Theism #2

- Design and order found in the universe
 - Expansion rate of universe sustains life
 - Mathematical probability of origin of life by chance is essentially 0
 - Single cell requires 1000 sets of encyclopedia for complex information
- Anthropic Principle
 - 25 narrowly defined parameters for life to be possible in the universe
 - 32 parameters for life concerning earth, moon, sun, galaxy
- ID more plausible than chance



Evidence Supporting Theism #3

- Possibility of human knowledge
 - Does perception match reality?
 - Atheism cannot bridge the gap
 - Theism says a rational God created man in His image (a rational being)
 - Could human reasoning evolve from matter?
- Reality of universal unchanging truths
 - Denial of absolute truth is self-refuting
 - Agnosticism is self-refuting
 - Mathematical truths are discovered
 - Atheism has no basis for eternal truths



Evidence Supporting Theism #4

- Existence of absolute moral laws
 - Moral laws are prescriptive (ought)
 - This requires a Prescriber
 - Lawgiver must be eternal
 - Transcendent moral Lawgiver
 - Atheism has no basis for morality
- In Atheism, no respect for human life
 - Man has no more value than an animal
 - No basis for human rights
- In Theism, all men created equal
 - Basis for human rights



Evidence Supporting Theism #5

- Existence of evil (cause and defeat)
 - Atheists have no explanation
 - Atheists can't define evil
 - Atheists offer no solution
 - To Theists, evil is the perversion of good
- Human consciousness
 - Man is aware of his existence
 - Self-awareness didn't come by chance
 - Self-aware Being created man
- Human free will and responsibility
 - To Atheists, materialism -> no responsibility



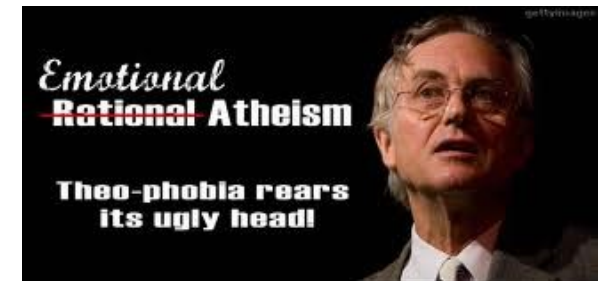
Human Self-Awareness & Self-Reflection

<p>Self-awareness is the awareness that one exists as an individual being. Without self-awareness the self perceives and accepts the thoughts that are occurring to be who the self is. Self-awareness gives one the option or choice to choose thoughts being thought rather than simply thinking the thoughts that are stimulated from the accumulative events leading up to the circumstances of the moment.</p>	<p>"I think, therefore I am"</p>  <p>"I think, therefore I exist, as a thing that thinks."</p>	<p>Self-reflection is the capacity of humans to exercise introspection and the willingness to learn more about their fundamental nature, purpose and essence. The earliest historical records demonstrate the great interest which humanity has had in itself. Human self-reflection inevitably leads to inquiry into the human condition and the essence of humankind as a whole.</p>
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The Evidence Supports Theism

■ Atheism fails to explain human experience

- Atheists can't live a consistent life
- Must live as if human life is sacred
- Must live as if life has meaning
- Rational statements require rational context
- Atheist's beliefs are not rational



■ Theism explains human experience

- The universe and life require a Designer
- A rational Being created rational humans
- Theism is a more reasonable explanation



In Conclusion

- God is revealed in and confirmed by:
 1. Nature (General)
 2. Scripture (Special)
 3. Christ's incarnation
 4. Theism's explanatory power
- What we believe to be true matches reality!
- Our faith is rational and can be defended
- Our experience shows The God of The Bible
- I rest my case for The Reality of God



The Case For The Reality of God!

For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

Thank you
for your
attention!

Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness...

—Romans 2:15

The
fool
hath said
in his heart,
there is no
God
Psalms 14:1

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