

Two Classical Proofs for the Existence of God

by Dennis Lange

It is interesting that the Bible does not try to prove the existence of God. Instead, scripture takes His existence for granted. The Bible speaks of Him creating the world and tells of His involvement in the lives of men and in the day-to-day affairs of this world. The Bible begins with, “In the beginning, God....” (Gen.1:1).

The Bible **does** say that the existence of God is so obvious that men have no excuse when they reject Him. “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” (Rom.1:20). NASA scientist Dr. Werner Von Braun said, “But must we really light a candle to see the sun?” God’s existence is that apparent.

Two primary arguments that have been given through the centuries for the existence of God are the cosmological and teleological arguments. Those two will be examined here.

Cosmological:

The cosmological argument is the argument of cause and effect. A woman looks at a freshly dug hole in her garden (an effect) and reasons that something caused it (perhaps an armadillo). A man comes home to find his house is a splintered pile of rubble and knows that something caused it. Reasoning that a tornado destroyed his house would make sense. Thinking that a mouse ran into it and caused all the ruin would be absurd. There must be a sufficient cause.

In the same way, men look at the cosmos and reason, “Something must have caused all this.” William Lane Craig ¹ put the argument in this form:

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist. (II Law of Thermodynamics)
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause.

Atheists have no answer to this problem. Some would argue that the universe (or matter) always existed. The second law of thermodynamics says that is impossible.

Another attempt to escape the obvious was voiced by Edward Tryon who said, “I proposed that our Universe had been created spontaneously from nothing.” ² He also said, “Our universe is simply one of those things which happen from time to time.” ³ Sadly, a few others have bought into such nonsense. In commenting on this idea behind the Big Bang theory, Terry Pratchett wrote, “The current state of knowledge can be summarized thus: In the beginning, there was nothing, which exploded.” ⁴ The person who believes such things should refrain from buying firecrackers, lean back in a comfortable chair in his den, and wait for nothing to explode. After all, these things “happen from time to time.”

One has a choice: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Or, in the beginning, there was nothing and it exploded. The writer of Hebrews put it this way, “For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” (3:4)

Teleological:

A second argument for the existence of God is the argument from design, the teleological argument. The root of the Greek word *teleologia* is *telos*, which means end or purpose. That which came into existence with an end or purpose in mind must, by definition, have a designer. If there is design in nature, a designer exists –God.

Such design can be seen everywhere one searches **and** in the eye with which one looks. A glance in the mirror and the evidence of design is seen. The eye with all its complex features was designed for the purpose of seeing.

We recognize design instantly. Who would argue that a glass eye was intelligently designed while the marvelous human eye occurred by stupid chance? The argument from design is simply common sense.

I recommend a book called What Darwin Didn't Know by Geoffrey Simmons, M.D. (Harvest House Publishers, 2004). The book doesn't talk much about Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution, but details the design and complexity of the human body. Simmons wrote of the things that were discovered after Darwin's time - the things Darwin didn't know. After reading the book, even an atheist would be forced to agree with the Psalmist, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps.139:14).

The Bible says this about nature, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words" (Ps.19:1-3). Nature speaks of God without a word being said. Paul wrote, "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Rom.1:20). Through what has been made (the creation), one can clearly understand the existence and power of the divine Creator.

Author's note: Short articles on the design in nature are posted within this section and new ones will appear from time to time in the Faith section on the front page of this website.

¹ Wikipedia, Cosmological

² Tryon, Edward P. (1984), "What Made the World?", *New Scientist*, 101:14-16, March 8

³ Tryon, Edward P. (1973), "Is the Universe a Vacuum Fluctuation?", *Nature*, 246:396-397, Dec. 14.

⁴ Pratchett, Terry (1994), *Lords and Ladies* (New York: HarperPrism)