

Questions about God

I. Does God Exist?

Romans 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

Cosmological Argument

- The universe has a beginning, so it must have a creator.
- All things have a beginning except God.
 - Even if we use bad arguments like the Big Bang or Evolution, these still need something to begin them.
 - There must be something that has always existed that is outside of our universe that is responsible for beginning everything that is created.
- **Colossians 1:16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - The creation of time, space, and matter
- The Bible and Christianity (Truth) provides the only answer to the question "How did this all begin?"

The fine tuning of the universe

- All elements of the universe are in a delicate balance, such that if any one of hundreds of variables were changed in even the smallest amount, life could not exist.
- If the forces that hold atoms together were 2% stronger, Hydrogen would not exist, so also no water. If 5% weaker, then only Hydrogen would exist.

- The cosmological constant, which controls the universe's expansion rate. Scientists discovered that it is fine-tuned to an astonishing precision of about 120 decimal places. If it varied even slightly, the universe would either expand too rapidly for galaxies to form or collapse back in on itself, preventing the formation of pretty much anything.
- Cosmologist Brandon Carter found that the independent constants or laws in physics have one highly unusual characteristic in common—they are precisely the values needed to establish and sustain a universe capable of producing life. This is another enormous and virtually uncontested proof for a universe that has been carefully designed.
- **Jeremiah 33:25-26a** "Thus says the LORD: 'If My covenant *is* not with day and night, *and if* I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, ²⁶ then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant...
- If the moon was not where it is and the earth tilted exactly as it is, our climate could not support life. (The moon helps stabilize our orbit).
- The stable rotation of the earth creates the perfect day/night ratio to prevent extreme temperatures.
- The magnetic field of the earth is tuned just right to prevent us from frying from solar flares and cosmic radiation.
- The atmosphere creates the exact right air mixture for life to survive in.
- Jupiter. Jupiter has such a gravitational pull and is positioned just right so that it pulls comets and asteroids away from the earth, otherwise we would be hit frequently with devastating impacts. (Saturn helps also).
- The distance from the sun is absolutely critical and any deviation would be catastrophic.
- **Psalms 33:6** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

DNA

- There is 500,000 movies worth of information stored in each cell of our bodies. Information in a book points towards an author, same for DNA
- Biochemist Michael Denton describes the cell this way: "To grasp the reality of life as it has been revealed by molecular biology, we must magnify a cell a billion times until it is twenty kilometers in diameter and resembles a giant airship large enough to cover a great city like London or New York. What we would then see would be an object of unparalleled complexity and adaptive design . . ." "We would see around us, in every direction we looked, all sorts of robot-like machines. We would notice that the simplest of the functional components of the cell, the protein molecules, were astonishingly complex pieces of molecular machinery, each one consisting of about three thousand atoms arranged in highly organized 3-D spatial conformation. "We would wonder even more as we watched the strangely purposeful activities of these weird molecular machines, particularly when we realized that, despite all our accumulated knowledge of physics and chemistry, the task of designing one such molecular machine—that is one single functional protein molecule—would be completely beyond our capacity at present" (Evolution: A Theory in Crisis, 1986, p. 329).
- Dr. Stephen C. Meyer says "Whether we are looking at a hieroglyphic inscription, a section of text in a book, or computer software, if you have information, and you trace it back to its source, invariably you come to an intelligence. Therefore, when you find information inscribed along the backbone of the DNA molecule in the cell, the most rational inference, based upon our repeated experience, is that an intelligence of some kind played a role in the origin of that information."

Psalms 139:13-16 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

Moral Argument

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values do not exist.
2. Objective moral values do exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

Atheism provides no groundwork for shared moral values.

- Without the existence of one outside of humanity that establishes what is good and evil, then there can be no consensus on anything being good or evil.
- Behavior does not reflect what we know to be good and evil. People act against what they know is good all the time.
- But there are things that all people define as good and evil that are in common. Harm of children, jealousy, greed, cowardice are all things that all civilizations believe are evil.
- The definition of good is derived from God's character. Not His laws. Not His commands. His laws and commands come out of His character.
- Immanuel Kant, a secular German philosopher said that the goal of humanity is hedonism, or to be as happy as possible. For ultimate happiness to be achieved, there must be an afterlife, and therefore God must exist.
- C. S. Lewis argued that "conscience reveals to us a moral law whose source cannot be found in the natural world, thus pointing to a supernatural Lawgiver."

Romans 2:12-16 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law ¹³ (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

II. Is the God of the Old Testament the same as the God of the New Testament?

Some believe that the God of the Old Testament is a god of wrath, whereas the God of the New Testament is a god of love.

- The Old Testament is filled with many accounts of cities being destroyed, the destruction of the Canaanites, and punishment for disobedience.
- Jesus teaches in the New Testament that we should turn the other cheek, and love our neighbor.
- God does not change:
 - **Malachi 3:6** "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
- The Old Testament is filled with the love and mercy of God
 - Noah preached for 120 years before the flood
 - God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach repentance
 - **Ezekiel 18:23** Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "*and* not that he should turn from his ways and live?
 - God gave the amorites hundreds of years to repent:
 - **Genesis 15:16** But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete."
 - **Hosea 6:6** For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
- God also displays His wrath in the New Testament:
 - **2 Thessalonians 1:6-9** since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power

- **Matthew 25:41** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:
- **Matthew 25:46** And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

We cannot separate the wrath of God from the love of God. Both attributes are clearly seen in both Testaments.

So why do they read different?

- Old Testament spans 4000 years. We see God giving hundreds of years of mercy, followed by some years of punishment. The scope of the OT allows us to see that.
- The New Testament spans 70 years. Less time than God ever gave for nations to repent.
 - Aside from the Gospels, this only historical account is the book of Acts. Acts spans only 29 years.
- The Old Testament allows us to learn about God through historical accounts of nations
- The Gospels allow us to learn about God through the teachings of Jesus Christ
- The Epistles allow us to learn about God through teachings and direct doctrines.
- All come to the same conclusion – God is a God of justice. He has love for all. But on those that reject Him and come against His children, they will experience His wrath. For those that turn to Him and acknowledge Him, He gives grace, mercy and salvation.

III. Is God vengeful for commanding entire nations to be killed?

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 "But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive,¹⁷ but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you,¹⁸ lest they teach you to do

according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the LORD your God.

- The Canaanites were a brutal and wicked culture that frequently engaged in incredibly horrific behavior. Leviticus 18 provides a list of sins that Israel was to avoid at all costs: incest, child sacrifice, homosexuality, and bestiality. All these sins were practiced by the people of Canaan: "This is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. . . . All these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled" (Leviticus 18:24–27).
- The Canaanites were given about 400 years to repent.
- The Canaanites were warned this was coming
 - **Joshua 2:8-11** Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He *is* God in heaven above and on earth beneath.
 - God spared Rahab who spoke those words and acknowledged God.
- God knew that if any of them were left they would drag Israel into paganism, which when Israel failed to destroy all the Canaanites, happened.
- God's discipline and punishment is always based on sin, not race.
 - Some have accused God of ethnic cleansing with the Canaanites.
 - **Deuteronomy 9:4** "Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land';

but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the LORD is driving them out from before you.

- The first 2 nations to be wiped out were Jericho and AI
- At Jericho, God saved Rahab, a Canaanite, because she sided with God's people
- At AI, Achan was killed for lying to God and stealing from the people of Jericho. Achan was an Israelite.
- Also, the Nephilim
- And this is an example of what will happen to those that reject God today.
 - Unbelievers are given time to repent. If they do not they also will face the wrath of God.
 - **Revelation 20:15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

IV. Is God a narcissist because He demands worship?

Isaiah 42:8 I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

- If anyone else acted the way God acts, we'd call them a narcissist and accuse them of outright selfishness. So, why does God get a pass? Isn't his demand for worship just a sign of selfish egotism?"

God is worthy of praise

- Praise gives credit where credit is due.
- All good things come from God
- He is worthy of receiving praise
- Just like if we do something great, we deserve that praise and it should not be given to another (If we do something good, we expect praise because we deserve it).
- There are no other gods worthy of praise

- Praise shows who we value
- It keeps our eyes on Him and helps us align our priorities

- Praise stems from thankfulness, and we can never fully comprehend the fullness of what God has done for us
- Praise given to another is ultimately living in a lie. Praise acknowledges truth

John 4:24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”