

A. Origin of God (6,7,18)

- i. Agnostic philosopher Bertrand Russell said, "Either the world had a beginning, or it did not. If it did not, it did not need a cause (God). If it did, we can ask, 'Who caused God?' "
- ii. Stephen Hawking in his book "The Grand Design" says that it is reasonable to ask who or what created the universe, but if the answer is God, then the question has merely been deflected to that of who created God. Hawking states that the creation of the universe is within the realm of science and we do not need any divine beings.
- iii. Dawkins attacks the intelligent design argument that claims that a self-created universe is as ridiculous as a hurricane assembling a Boeing 747 because then the creation of God would be as ridiculous since God is the ultimate Boeing 747.
- iv. If God has a cause, he is not God. If you identify who/what caused God, then you have voided the meaning of the title "God" since what was identified as "God" is not really God since God was caused.
- v. "Who made God?" is a meaningless question because it wrongly assumes that "everything must have a cause". The true philosophical statement is not: "**everything** must have a cause", but instead is, "**everything that had a beginning** had a cause." Huge difference since God can be included in *everything*, but he is not part of *everything that had a beginning*."
- vi. Everything that had **a beginning**, had a **Beginner**. But, God can be the Beginner without having a beginning. (6p25)
- vii. God does not need a cause because God had no beginning. Thus, one of the characteristics of God is eternal

B. Alternative Options for God (1,3,18,25p74)

- i. An online answer: "Aliens superior race(s) , galactic empire(s) and all that jazz:
 1. looking for an experimental planet to observe growth of terrans (read:humans; in science fiction "terrans" is an inhabitant of the planet Earth.) for:
 - a. exploitation of labor
 - b. observation for philosophical enlightenment or curiosity
 - c. mere amusement, somewhat like the movie "The Truman Show".
- ii. Multi-universe, or Multiverse instead of Universe
 1. The simplest explanation for the existence of an ordered and designed universe is the existence of God.
 2. Philosophically claiming there are multiple universes:
 - a. Is unmeasurable, unprovable and unobservable.
 - b. Compounds the atheists' problem by actually requiring a cause for every universe. If it is impossible to imagine one universe evolving randomly then how ridiculous is it to assume the problem is solved by having it happen multiple times.
 - c. Actually the multiverse theory needs a creating God more than a universe theory does for existence.
 3. Critics comments that multiverse theories are non-scientific:
 - a. Paul Davies, The New York Times, "A Brief History of the Multiverse" says: *For a start, how is the existence of the other*

universes to be tested? To be sure, all cosmologists accept that there are some regions of the universe that lie beyond the reach of our telescopes, but somewhere on the slippery slope between that and the idea that there is an infinite number of universes, credibility reaches a limit. As one slips down that slope, more and more must be accepted on faith, and less and less is open to scientific verification. Extreme multiverse explanations are therefore reminiscent of theological discussions. Indeed, invoking an infinity of unseen universes to explain the unusual features of the one we do see is just as ad hoc as invoking an unseen Creator. The multiverse theory may be dressed up in scientific language, but in essence it requires the same leap of faith.

- b. George Ellis, professor of complex systems in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Cape Town co-authored “The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time” with Stephen Hawking says: *As skeptical as I am, I think the contemplation of the multiverse is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the nature of science and on the ultimate nature of existence: why we are here.... In looking at this concept, we need an open mind, though not too open. It is a delicate path to tread. Parallel universes may or may not exist; the case is unproved. We are going to have to live with that uncertainty. Nothing is wrong with scientifically based philosophical speculation, which is what multiverse proposals are. But we should name it for what it is.*

C. Arguments Against God’s Existence

- i. God cannot be seen, touched or felt.
 1. Magnetism cannot be seen, touched or felt, but the results of magnetism’s existence can be through its generation of electricity or its effect on a compass.
 2. Gravity cannot be seen, touched or felt, but the results of gravity’s existence can be experienced and measured. We do not float off into space, but are constantly held to the earth even if we do not believe in gravity.
 3. Romans 1:20 says that because there is a created universe mankind are without excuse when they reject God’s existence.
- ii. Argument from inadequate revelation – God has not sufficiently revealed himself.
- iii. Argument from the poor design of the universe – Richard Carrier argues “that the universe itself seems to be very ill-designed for life, because the vast majority of the space in the universe is utterly hostile to it.” Carrier argues that a god could have created a geocentric universe (earth at the center, utilizing space more conservatively) like the kind of universe that mankind believed to exist until modern science revealed the great expanse of the universe. Our universe, he contends, is not the kind of universe we would expect a God to create. In fact, he believes our universe is exactly what we would expect if atheism were true and the universe evolved – a vast, empty, very old universe almost completely devoid of life.

- iv. Argument from the incompatible divine properties
 - 1. The omnipotence paradox suggests that the concept of an omnipotent entity is logically contradictory by considering questions such as "Can God create a rock so big that He cannot move it?" or "If God is all powerful, could God create a being more powerful than Himself?"
 - a. These are arguments from the ridiculous and the absurd.
 - b. These are not logical challenges.
 - 2. Another argument points to the contradiction of omniscience and omnipotence arguing that God is bound to follow whatever God foreknows himself doing.
 - 3. Argument from free will contends that omniscience and the free will of humanity are incompatible and that any conception of God that incorporates both properties is therefore inherently contradictory: if God is omniscient, then God already knows humanity's future, contradicting the claim of free will.
 - a. This is not a challenge.
 - b. These are two different subjects on two different planes
 - c. God can know all without overriding free will
 - 4. The anthropic argument states that if God is omniscient, omnipotent, and morally perfect, he would have created other morally perfect beings instead of imperfect ones, such as humans.
 - a. Creating them with free will allowed them to make their own choices
- v. Why doesn't God just reveal himself?
 - 1. He DID, to Israel at Mt. Sinai. But, they still made individual and group choices NOT to believe or not to obey him.
 - 2. He DID, through Jesus' undeniable life, miracles and ministry. But, many still chose NOT to accept his claims, believe in his name or not to obey him.
 - 3. He DID, to every person through creation. But, many chose to suppress this obvious knowledge and chose other alternatives even though there is no excuse for rejecting God's natural revelation of himself.
 - 4. IF God DID reveal himself today we could expect a similar response from mankind. They would make individual and group decisions not to believe or not to obey God.
 - 5. WHEN God DOES the Bible prophecies this very response some day in the future when God through Jesus the Son appears in our atmosphere (Matt. 24:30) as recorded in Revelation 6:15-16:
 - a. "Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." – Matthew 24:30
 - b. "Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the

face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" – Revelation 6:15-16

6. God was not the one hiding. Adam was! Today God is not hiding from man, but man is hiding from God!
7. Friedrich Nietzsche, a German atheist philosopher (1844-1900) made this challenge,
"A god who is all-knowing and all powerful and who does not even make sure his creatures understand his intention – could that be a god of goodness? Who allows countless doubts and dubieties to persist, for thousands of years, as though the salvation of mankind were unaffected by them, and who on the other hand holds out the prospect of frightful consequences if any mistake is made as to the nature of truth."
 - a. Possible Answer 1: God may want man to use his free will to process the evidence that has been made available. Thus, God is preserving man's freewill.
 - b. Possible Answer 2: God is showing enough evidence that some men will seek and find him, but also God is withholding enough evidence so men feel free to deny God and hide from him.
 - i. Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) said, "Willing to appear openly to those who seek him with all their heart, and to be hidden from those who flee from him with all their heart, God so regulates the knowledge of himself that he has given indications of himself, which are visible to those who seek him and not to those who do not seek him. There is enough light for those to see who only desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition.
 - ii. The Bible promises that if we seek him we will find him, and likewise if we hide from him we can remain lost.
 1. Jeremiah 29:1 – "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."
 2. Matthew 7:7 – "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
 3. Deuteronomy 4:29 – "From there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul."
- vi. What was God doing before He made the world? (6p28)
 1. Augustine answered this with two answers:
 - a. Augustine's first answer: God was spending his time preparing hell for people who ask questions like this.
 - b. God created time when he created the universe. So, there was no time.

Before creation of time there was eternity which does not include passing moments. Passing moments are measurable time which was created with the universe.