



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON

Arguments for God



Kerby Anderson



Arguments for God



“More than two hundred times a second, around the clock, someone is asking an online search engine about God – often with the simple inquiry, *Is God real?*” That is how Lee Strobel opens his book with the title, *Is God Real?*

This is a question people are asking everywhere and all the time. We need to be able to give them arguments for the existence of God that involve more than just saying that the Bible teaches that God exists. There are many good reasons to believe in God's existence.

This booklet will only focus on two foundational arguments for the existence of God.

(1) The cosmological argument is an argument about cause and effect. All things in nature depend on something else for their existence. Therefore, the universe must depend on something for its existence. (2) The teleological argument can also be called the design argument. We observe order and design

in nature. Design implies a designer. God is the designer and creator.

To illustrate these two arguments, we will focus on the first three chapters of the book by Lee Strobel.

Cosmological Argument

The first chapter in the book is “The Cosmos Requires a Creator” in which Lee Strobel interviews William Lane Craig. The key argument he cites is the Kalam Cosmological Argument. It states:

Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

The universe had a beginning.

Therefore, the universe has a cause.

It is hard to find someone to disagree with the first premise. Craig, however, thought that the second premise (that the universe began to exist) might be more controversial. But the scientific evidence has accumulated so that atheists are finding it difficult to deny the universe had a beginning, since they believe in the Big Bang.

That is why you sometimes find atheists challenging the first premise. Craig responds to the idea that something came from nothing, perhaps because of quantum theory. He has been able to show in technical journals that various exotic theories used to dismiss the cosmological argument are fallacious.

He concludes by showing that

the Kalam argument isn't just an argument for a transcendent cause of the universe. It also implies a personal creator, which is what the Bible teaches.

Teleological Argument: Part One

The second chapter in the book is, "The Universe Needs a Fine-Tuner" in which Lee Strobel interviews Michael Strauss. The parameters for the universe, our galaxy, our solar system, and our Earth are finely tuned. One parameter is the amount of matter in the universe that is attracted to each other due to gravity. If there was too much, the universe would collapse upon itself. If there was too little, stars and planets would never coalesce.

How finely tuned is the amount

of matter? It was precisely tuned to one part in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion. That is a ten with sixty zeros after it.

Another one of his research areas is the strong nuclear force. This is what holds together the nucleus of atoms. If it were just two percent stronger, you would have more elements in the periodic table, but they would be radioactive and life-destroying. Also, you would have little hydrogen in the universe. No hydrogen means no water, no life. If you turned the knob the other way and decreased the force by five percent, you would just have hydrogen. It would be a dead universe.

Perhaps the most extreme example comes from Oxford

mathematical physicists Roger Penrose (who partnered with Stephen Hawking to write *The Nature of Space and Time*). His calculations show that to start the universe so it would have the required state of low entropy, the setting would have to be accurate to a precision of one part in ten to the power 10^{125} . If you were to put a zero on every particle in the universe, that would not be enough to do the job.

Strauss also explains you need the right kind of galaxy and you can't just live anywhere in the galaxy. You must live in the so-called "Goldilocks Zone" or the galactic habitable zone. You also must live on an "Earthlike" planet. The probability of finding another planet like Earth is infin-

itesimal: Hugh Ross calculated that probability at 10^{-304} . He also spends some time dismissing alternative theories, including the idea of a multiverse.

If God is the most likely explanation for our universe and planet, what can we logically deduce about God from the scientific evidence? He must be transcendent (exists apart from creation) and immaterial (existed before the physical world) and eternal (existed before physical time) and powerful (given the energy of the universe). He must also be smart (given the physical parameters) and personal (decision had to be made to create) and caring (purposeful creation). These are the characteristics of the God of the Bible.

Teleological Argument: Part Two

The third chapter in the book is, “Our DNA Demands a Designer” in which Lee Strobel interviews Stephen Meyer. He talks about the “DNA to Design” argument. The origin of information in DNA (which is necessary for life to begin) is best explained by an intelligent cause rather than by any natural cause.

We know that we can convey information with a twenty-six-letter alphabet or even with two characters like the zeros and ones used in binary code in computers. We now know that DNA stores information in the form of a four-character digital code. These codes form amino acids that form a protein mol-

ecule. The order and structure are specified by the DNA code.

DNA is like a library. Organisms access the information they need from DNA so they can build some of the critical components. For example, to build one protein, you need 1,200 to 2,000 bases. Bill Gates said that DNA is like a software program, only much more complex than anything they have devised at Microsoft.

In 1871, Charles Darwin wrote a letter in which he speculated that life might have originated when a protein formed “in a warm little pond.” But there isn’t the geological evidence of a prebiotic soup. Meyer also talks about the various scenarios for the origin of life (random chance, natural selection, chem-

ical affinities) and explains that none of them provide answers for the origin of life.

Francis Crick (a philosophical materialist) conceded, “An honest man armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.”

Meyer argues that intelligent design not only makes sense because other theories fail, but also because he is making an inference to the best explanation. This is how scientists reason. We know what entity can produce information, and that is intelligence.

While it is true that these philosophical arguments do show that God exists, there are many other chapters on topics like the resurrection, biblical revelation, and personal experience that confirm the Bible. Those chapters in the book and in many other books on apologetics and biblical revelation are worthy of consideration.

Biblical Perspective

The Bible clearly teaches that God exists and created the world. Psalm 19:1 proclaims that “The heavens declare the glory of God.” Romans 1:20 teaches “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by

what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

In the 18th century, William Paley (a British philosopher and clergyman) argued that design implies a designer. In his book, *Natural Theology*, he offered an argument for the truth of the Creator and His work. He argued that if you came across a stone, you would recognize it as a “natural” object, just like other stones. But if you discovered a watch, you would understand it was in a separate category. It displays planning and craftsmanship, beauty, and usefulness. A watch requires a watchmaker. Design requires a Designer.

Much of that changed in the 19th century with Charles Darwin and others who believed

that science could explain everything in the world apart from God. Three figures established comprehensive materialism. Stephen Meyer put it this way:

Darwin, from biology, told us where we came from. Marx, with a secular eschatology, told us where we are going. Freud, with psychology, told us what to do with the human condition. At the beginning of the 20th century, it appeared that all the key questions that the Bible answered could be explained without a belief in God or any reference to the Bible.

As Stephen Meyer explains in his book, *The Return of the God Hypothesis*, scientific discovery showed that the universe had

a beginning. Other research in astronomy showed that the universe is finely tuned. And research in biology showed that life is fine-tuned. Essentially, science was validating the cosmological argument and the teleological argument.

These are powerful arguments for the existence of God. That is why his book has the title *The RETURN of the God Hypothesis*. Since the book is technical, we suggest you obtain a copy of one of the other *Point of View* booklets with the title *A Biblical View on God and Science* which provides a brief overview of his book.



Additional Resources

Kerby Anderson, *A Biblical View on Intelligent Design*, POV booklet, 2022.

Kerby Anderson, *A Biblical View on God and Science*, POV booklet, 2021.

Stephen Meyer, *The Return of the God Hypothesis*, NY: HarperOne, 2021.

Lee Strobel, *Is God Real?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2023.

Point of View

Point of View Ministries • PO Box 30 • Dallas, TX 75221

pointofview.net • 800-347-5151

June 2024 • A Biblical View on Arguments for God

© Point of View Ministries 2024

