

The evidences for God are numerous. The evidences for God as the Creator of the Universe are abundant. The evidences for this world to be a product of chance are not adequate. The evidences that we owe our very existence to the miracle worker, TIME, and his fellow disciple, DUMB BLIND CHANCE, and our master and maker, "ROCKSNDIRT", are preposterous. And yet, when people accept the evidences, numerous as they are, that God exists, and created all things, the world brands you as foolish and states that there is no way you can prove the existence of God. Can we prove the existence of God? Can a person make the statement, "I know that God exists," and back that up with evidence?

The Meaning Of Knowledge

That leads to the question: Is it possible for us to know? Can we know that God exists? Can we know anything at all? If it is possible to know anything, it is possible for us to know that God exists. Can one know anything? Is the normal human being capable of really knowing anything?

The answer to this question (Can we know anything?) involves the whole field of study called, "Epistemology." It is that field of study which deals with the origin, nature, methods, and limits of knowledge.

The human being, in two basic ways, comes to have knowledge: EXPERIENCE (Sense perception); and CONTEMPLATION (Reflection). Experience, or sense perception is placed under the heading of Science; while knowledge which comes by contemplation or reflection is placed under the heading of Philosophy. It is certainly true that there is knowledge which comes by means of the physical senses (taste, touch, see, hear, smell), and it is also true that there is knowledge which comes by means of contemplation. It is possible for one to know, and to know that he knows, by working (in thought) according to the demands of the principles of correct reasoning.

The Law of Rationality holds that: "We ought to justify our conclusions by adequate evidence." Adequate evidence absolutely demands certain conclusions. We are not talking about assumptions. We are not talking about guesses, or speculations, or probabilities, or possibilities. We are speaking of that conclusion which is absolutely demanded by the evidence at hand. And

that conclusion, which is demanded by the evidence, is a matter of knowledge. It is knowledge just as much as is the case with regard to sense perceptions.

It is this kind of knowledge in particular that we have in mind when we emphasize that we can know that God exists. We have not emphasized yet how we can know that God exists, but rather to declare emphatically that it is a fact that we can know that God exists. Anybody who has ever gotten the wrong answer to an arithmetic problem knows that it is possible for one to make a mistake; that it is possible for one to get the wrong answer. If it is possible to get the wrong answer, is it not also possible to get the right answer? And, would it be possible for one to prove and to know what the right answer is?

Can We Prove Or Disprove The Existence Of God?

I have stated in the introduction that the evidences for God are numerous, and we will point those out in this lesson. But have you ever considered this question – Can one prove that God does not exist?

Would it be logical to state that for one to set out to prove that God does not exist, that person would have to know everything there is to know, for if there was one thing he does not know, it could be God? Would it also be logical to state that the person would also have to be everywhere-present at one and the same time, for if there was one place that person was not, God might be there? Would it not also be logical that if a person knew everything there was to know, and could be present everywhere at the same time, that person would be God?

Many times, to prove the existence of God, Christians will cite a Bible verse, such as, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), only to hear the response from a skeptic, "I don't believe the Bible." Frequently the Christian will feel rejected and that there is no way to defend God without using the Bible. That is simply not the case. God can be proven without the use of the Bible as well as with the Bible.

We have mentioned that there are two basic ways we come to have knowledge: Experience (Sense perception) and Contemplation. When man uses the physical senses to try to perceive God (taste, touch, see, hear, smell) and cannot do so, he often states that God cannot be known.

That is not the only way God is known. Through proper reasoning and adequate evidence God is known through contemplation (reflection), and that knowledge is just as true and sure as is the case of sense perceptions. That is true in other fields and areas of everyday life. There are many things of which we have not witnessed with our physical senses, and yet we know that they exist. Places, people, events, truths for which we have not seen with our own eyes or perceived in any other way, that we know are true. By the use of correct reasoning, and adequate evidence, we can know certain things and know that we know.

Evidences Outside The Bible

Contemplation (Reflection) is certainly a way to prove the existence of God. This field is used mostly in the area of logic (proper reasoning), answers which are demanded by the evidence. Let's look at several of these:

The Theory of Materialism holds that without God all you have left for your answers is materialism. Therefore, much of the world looks for their answers for every living thing to rocks and dirt. Somehow, material things have always existed and through time (millions and millions of years) and the magical might of survival, materialism brought forth everything animate and inanimate in this world and worlds beyond.

Yet, how do you account for the eternal existence, or better yet, existence of the material (rocks and dirt)? Where did they come from? How did the inanimate produce the animate? How did the material produce conscience, reasoning or morality? How did inanimate objects gain a sense of survival? The truth is, through proper reasoning that is demanded by the evidence, materialism cannot account for these things, or anything.

The Cosmological Argument, basically stated: "Every effect must have an adequate cause." Not just a cause, but an "adequate" cause.

The earth is our great space ship, which we are riding in orbit around the sun, at the tremendous speed of nineteen miles per second (68,400 mph), while at the same time it rotates upon its axis at the speed of 1000 miles per hour (at the equator). We ask the question,

“What is an adequate cause for this tremendous effect?” Only the all-wise, all-powerful, everywhere-present God of the Bible is adequate cause.

The human body, in fact, life of every kind is a tremendous composition of many things, of which we marvel and stand in awe. Many people just accept the fact that all things just happened, but proper reasoning would answer – there had to be an adequate cause for the simple to the extremely complex systems that bring about life and sustain it. There is only one adequate cause for the answers of life – Almighty God.

The Teleological Argument, basically stated is: “There can be no design without a designer.” Our marvelous universe declares design. Even the scoffers admit this. There is such marvelous precision that the earth will sustain exactly the same relationship to the sun one year from this moment that it does now. The model of the solar system that our children make for science projects, with their Styrofoam balls and straws holding them away from the sun, shows design. What about the real thing? Where are the straws holding all the planets in precise distances from the sun? There is only one answer, there had to be a designer for this marvelous design. And the only one who could design such is Almighty God.

Yes, every law must have a lawgiver, every design a designer, every picture a painter, every poem a poet, every thought a thinker. By use of proper reasoning, adequate evidence absolutely demands certain conclusions. Every design must have a designer (see the conclusion for one man’s answer about the designer).

Evidences In The Bible

Another field of evidences is that found within the Bible, Internal Evidences. Through the study of “Prophecy Made and Prophecy Fulfilled,” many have been led to believe in the inspiration of the Bible, thus the God of the Bible. It is an argument that God made for himself. Who but God (all knowing, all powerful) could declare “the end from the beginning” (Isaiah 46:9-10). “I am the Lord...and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them” (Isaiah 42:8-9). These prophecies were the unveiling of the future beyond the possibility of human foresight, with a sufficient number of details as to preclude guesswork or accident.

Study some of these prophecies: Daniel’s vision of world empires (Daniel 2); Cyrus the Great (Isaiah 44,45); Concerning Tyre (Isaiah 23; Ezekiel 26-28); Concerning Ninevah (Nahum); Concerning Babylon (Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 25, 50-52); Concerning Christ (over 300 prophecies from His birth to His death and second coming).

Conclusion

We have had a lot to say about proper reasoning, and that we should justify our conclusions by adequate evidence. Richard Dawkins, one of the top if not the top atheist in the world, (Google to find out more), gave this answer to the question of intelligent design: “It could come about in the following way. It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved, by probably some kind of Darwinian means, to a very, very high level of technology, and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet.” His answer – Aliens! Proper reasoning? You have to decide for yourself, for you will stand before this God one day and give an account for your life. And I hope you have justified your conclusions upon “adequate” evidence.

Endnotes

The majority of material has come from a class taken in the Brown Trail School of Preaching, under the tutelage of Roy Deaver. The class was entitled: Fundamentals 1.

The material in the conclusion about Richard Dawkins was from Ben Stein’s documentary entitled: *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the
30th Annual Mid-West Lectures,
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To hear or view the complete lesson go to
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I Know... God Exists

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