

text :
DOES GOD EXIST?
Pastor Chuck Wysong
Sunday, July 10, 2011

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3

1. THE EVIDENCE OF CREATION - THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1

The cosmological argument (cosmos, "world"), states that the universe is an effect which requires an adequate cause, and the only sufficient cause is God!

- **Rationale Number 1 – The Principle Of Sufficient Reason**
(Therefore, there must be a reason)
- **Rationale Number 2 - The Principle Of Contingency**
(Therefore not self caused, and not self-reliant)

The big question — if all that exists is indeed contingent then what is the explanation? Who is responsible for all of them as a total? This makes a compelling case for an all-powerful eternal non-contingent being.

"There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose here on the planet...spontaneous generation arising to evolution, or a supernatural creative act of God. There is no third position. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur, but that leaves us with only one other possibility, that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God. But I can't accept that philosophically, because I don't want to believe in God, therefore by faith, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation." - GEORGE WALL, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF BIOLOGY, HARVARD, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER 1971, BIOLOGY

2. THE EVIDENCE OF DESIGN - THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20

The teleological argument (telos, "end") states that the universe not only provides a maker but also a designer. This argument simply says that random chance for the explanation of the universe and its complexity is highly unlikely. It says wherever and whenever there is order, design and structure, reasonable thinking people know that someone is responsible for it.

THE CREATOR AND THE COSMOS

There are many other factors which require this same sort of fine-tuning for life to exist. Any one of these differing much above or below what they do now would prevent life from developing. Their explanations are beyond the scope of this message, but here are some of them:

The weak nuclear force	Polarity of water	Fluorine production in white dwarf binary systems
The mass of the universe	Supernovae eruptions	Mass excess of the neutron over the proton
The stability of the proton	The electron to proton mass ratio	Initial excess of nucleons over anti-nucleons
The fine structure constants	The entropy level of the universe	Ratio of exotic to ordinary matter
The velocity of light	The rate of luminosity increase for stars	
The decay rate of Be-8	The B-8, C-12, and O-16 energy level	

Note: Taken from The Creator and the Cosmos by Dr Hugh Ross © 1993 Reasons to Believe. That book offers a detailed look into the scientific history and cosmological evidence concerning the existence of the God of the Bible.

"If the laws of physics were different, if gravity was slightly different, if the strong nuclear force within an atom was different, molecules couldn't function, matter would fly apart, and scientists are beginning to wonder who calibrated it all." - HUGH ROSS, THE CREATOR AND THE COSMOS

Astrophysicist Fred Hoyle calculated the odds that all the functional proteins necessary for life might form in place by random events. He came up with a figure of one chance in $10^{40,000}$ (that's 1 with 40,000 zeros after it). Since there are only about 10^{80} subatomic particles in the entire visible universe, he concluded that this was "an outrageously small probability."

"Life could not have originated here on the earth. Nor does it look as though biological evolution can be explained from within an earthbound theory of life. My atheism has been greatly shaken. The community of scientists are prepared to consider the idea that God created the universe a more respectable hypothesis today than at any time in the last hundred years." - SCIENCE HISTORIAN FREDRIC B. BURNHAM

*"To suppose that the eye, with so many parts all working together could have been formed by natural selection **seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.**"* - CHARLES DARWIN, THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

3. THE EVIDENCE OF PERSONALITY - THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20

IF GOD EXISTS.....WHAT NOW?

3 BIG IMPLICATIONS

1. We should show REVERENCE FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image....**So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**" Genesis 1:26-27

2. We can KNOW GOD

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Colossians 1:15

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." John 1:14

3. We want to SERVE GOD

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." HEBREWS 12:1-2

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Two good web sites focusing on the "intelligent design" argument that has been gaining increasing credibility in the scholarly and scientific communities <http://www.arn.org/> OR <http://www.origins.org/>

The "Reasons to Believe" web site <http://www.reasons.org/>

The American Scientific Affiliation home page, an organization of scientists who are Christians. They address ethical issues (such as cloning & genetic engineering) and educational (teaching) issues as well as origins issues. <http://asa.calvin.edu/ASA/index.html>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- McDowell, Josh. [More Than a Carpenter](#)
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- Ortberg, John. [Faith and Doubt](#)
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TIME WITH GOD

Memory Verse: *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Psalm 19:1*

Monday

Read 1 Peter 3:15,16. Peter tells us three things about sharing your faith story: First he says be prepared always. How can you be better prepared to share your reasons for faith? Then he says to have reasons. What are some of the reasons you believe? Next, he says to share your hope with gentleness and respect, and a clear conscience. How can you show this to others when sharing your testimony? Why is this essential to leading others to faith?

Thank God today for your hope and ask Him to help you share it this week!

Tuesday

Read Romans 1:20. What is the point of this verse?

What specifically can be learned about God through nature? Look around you right now, if possible, at aspects of nature-- the trees, the sky, animals around you. What can you learn about God by observing these things? If

God can be observed in nature, than what logically would be Satan's plan regarding man's relationship to nature?

Thank God that He speaks to us through His word and His world!

Wednesday

Read Psalm 19:1-4. How do the heavens “declare the glory of God”?

What do you think verse 2 means: “Night after night they display knowledge”? If you can, take the Psalmist's advice right now: Go outside and look at the stars or the sun. What do you learn about God as you listen to “the heavens”? Can you remember a time when you were particularly moved by “the heavens” as they displayed God's glory?

Look at the stars or sun and pray – not to creation, but to the Creator. Thank God for speaking through His creation.

Thursday

Read Psalm 8. The two words for Lord are Yahweh and Adonai. Yahweh means “Creator and Sustainer.” Adonai means, “Sovereign, King.” Read verse 1 again as “Oh Creator and Sustainer our King.” It might just make you want to worship our great Creator and King.

What emotion is the Psalmist feeling here? Have you ever felt this way? When? Why is God mindful of us, when the universe is so massive and we are so small?

If you haven't yet, tell God you trust Him with your life!

Friday

Read Psalm 139:13-16. Review the message notes from last weekend. We talked about the amazing evidences for God's design of the universe. This Psalm talks about the fact that God created you. How does this make you feel? What does this mean about your value? What does this imply about the meaning of your life?

Thank God that He made you in a wonderful way! Ask Him to help you appreciate His masterpieces-- including you – better!

Saturday

Please pray for the services this weekend and finish any devotions you may have missed. Thanks!