



Theologetic Table of the Evidence

An Interactive Apologetic PDF of Evidence for God, Jesus, The Bible & Sound Christian Theology

The Table is made up of **Basic Elements**: the most elemental evidence and explanations for God, Jesus, The Bible and Christianity as well as **Root Elements**: a foundation that the basic elements are built upon. Each element links to a separate page corresponding to that specific information. The lists under the Table provide more details about the elements which are listed numerically, categorically and alphabetically as well as a link to the objections list page.

Basic Element

1.1

C

+

C

Numeric Value

Subject Color

Name Initialism

Category

(1) God

(2) Jesus

(3) The Bible

(4) Christianity

a. Philosophical

b. Mathematical

c. Scientific

d. Historical

e. Theological

Type

+ evidence

= explanation

+/= both

Root Element

G

f

Category

f. Foundational

Name Initialism

God						Christianity																	
1.16 Ab + b													4.15 Th = e										
1.13 Tr +/- e		1.14 PE +/- d		1.15 Cy + c		The Bible						4.13 SD = e		4.14 CT = e									
1.10 FW + a		1.11 IT + c		1.12 Tu + a		Jesus						3.10 ST + e		4.10 P = e		4.11 Wo = e		4.12 SG = e					
1.7 RN + a		1.8 Be + a		1.9 PW + a		2.7 BC = d		2.8 NJ + d		2.9 DR + d		3.7 PA + b		3.8 CS = d		3.9 EH +/- e		4.7 Li +/- e		4.8 Wi = e		4.9 Ap = e	
1.4 O + a		1.5 Mi + d		1.6 Cn + a		2.4 PJ +/- d		2.5 MJ +/- d		2.6 SJ = e		3.4 Tx + b		3.5 HA + d		3.6 SA + c		4.4 Sv +/- e		4.5 F +/- e		4.6 Lo +/- e	
1.1 C + c		1.2 T + c		1.3 Mo + b		2.1 VB = d		2.2 JD +/- d		2.3 MP + b		3.1 JS +/- d		3.2 UC + b		3.3 ET + d		4.1 Ge +/- d		4.2 GW = e		4.3 Si = e	
G f		L f		M f		S f		A f		B f													

Numerical List

God, Jesus, The Bible & Christianity

God's Nature
Logic
Math
Science
Archaeology
Balance

1. God

- 1.1 The Cosmological Argument
- 1.2 The Teleological Argument
- 1.3 The Moral Argument
- 1.4 The Ontological Argument
- 1.5 The Miracles Argument
- 1.6 The Consciousness Argument
- 1.7 The Religious Need Argument
- 1.8 The Beauty Argument
- 1.9 Pascal's Wager
- 1.10 The Free Will Argument
- 1.11 Information Theory
- 1.12 The Truth Argument
- 1.13 The Trinity
- 1.14 Personal Experience
- 1.15 The Contingency Argument
- 1.16 The Abundance of Arguments Argument

2. Jesus

- 2.1 The Virgin Birth
- 2.2 Jesus's Claim of Deity
- 2.3 Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled
- 2.4 The Prophecies of Jesus
- 2.5 The Miracles of Jesus
- 2.6 The Sinless Life of Jesus
- 2.7 Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity
- 2.8 Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus
- 2.9 The Death and Resurrection of Christ

3. The Bible

- 3.1 Jesus's Stance on Scripture
- 3.2 Unity and Consistency of Scripture
- 3.3 Eyewitness Testimony of Scripture
- 3.4 Textual Reliability of Scripture
- 3.5 Historical Accuracy of Scripture
- 3.6 Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
- 3.7 Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture
- 3.8 The Canon of Scripture
- 3.9 Exegesis and Hermeneutics
- 3.10 Shadows of Christ and Typology

4. Christianity

- 4.1 Genesis
- 4.2 God's Will
- 4.3 Sin
- 4.4 Salvation
- 4.5 Faith
- 4.6 Love
- 4.7 Life
- 4.8 Witnessing
- 4.9 Apologetics
- 4.10 Prayer
- 4.11 Worship
- 4.12 Spiritual Gifts
- 4.13 Spiritual Disciplines
- 4.14 Church Traditions
- 4.15 Theology

Categorical List

a. Philosophical

- The Moral Argument (pg 13)
- The Ontological Argument (pg 14)
- The Consciousness Argument (pg 16)
- The Religious Need Argument (pg 17)
- The Beauty Argument (pg 18)
- Pascal's Wager (pg 19)
- The Free Will Argument (pg 20)
- The Truth Argument (pg 22)

b. Mathematical

- Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled (pg 30)
- Unity and Consistency of Scripture (pg 39)
- Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture (pg 44)
- Textual Reliability of Scripture (pg 41)
- The Abundance of Arguments Argument (pg 26)

c. Scientific

- The Cosmological Argument (pg 11)
- Scientific Accuracy of Scripture (pg 43)
- The Teleological Argument (pg 12)
- Information Theory (pg 21)
- The Contingency Argument (pg 25)

d. Historical

- Genesis (pg 49)
- The Miracles Argument (pg 15)
- Jesus's Claim of Deity (pg 29)
- The Prophecies of Jesus (pg 31)
- The Miracles of Jesus (pg 32)
- Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity (pg 34)
- Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus (pg 35)
- The Death and Resurrection of Christ (pg 36)
- Historical Accuracy of Scripture (pg 42)
- Eyewitness Testimony of Scripture (pg 40)
- The Canon of Scripture (pg 45)
- Jesus's Stance on Scripture (pg 38)
- The Virgin Birth (pg 28)
- Personal Experience (pg 24)

e. Theological

- The Trinity (pg 23)
- The Sinless Life of Jesus (pg 33)
- Exegesis and Hermeneutics (pg 46)
- God's Will (pg 50)
- Sin (pg 51)
- Salvation (pg 52)
- Faith (pg 53)
- Love (pg 54)
- Life (pg 55)
- Witnessing (pg 56)
- Apologetics (pg 57)
- Prayer (pg 58)
- Worship (pg 59)
- Shadows of Christ and Typology (pg 47)
- Spiritual Gifts (pg 60)
- Spiritual Disciplines (pg 61)
- Church Traditions (pg 62)
- Theology (pg 63)

f. Foundational

- God's Nature (pg 4)
- Logic (pg 5)
- Math (pg 6)
- Science (pg 7)
- Archaeology (pg 8)
- Balance (pg 9)

Alphabetical List

- [A] Archaeology
- [Ab] Abundance of Arguments Argument, The
- [Ap] Apologetics
- [B] Balance
- [Be] Beauty Argument, The
- [BC] Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity
- [C] Cosmological Argument, The
- [Cn] Consciousness Argument, The
- [CS] Canon of Scripture, The
- [CT] Church Traditions
- [Cy] Contingency Argument, The
- [DR] Death and Resurrection of Christ, The
- [EH] Exegesis and Hermeneutics
- [ET] Eyewitness Testimony of Scripture
- [F] Faith
- [FW] Free Will Argument, The
- [G] God's Nature
- [Ge] Genesis
- [GW] God's Will
- [HA] Historical Accuracy of Scripture
- [IT] Information Theory
- [JD] Jesus's Claim of Deity
- [JS] Jesus's Stance on Scripture
- [L] Logic
- [Li] Life
- [Lo] Love
- [M] Math
- [Mi] Miracles Argument, The
- [MJ] Miracles of Jesus, The
- [Mo] Moral Argument, The
- [MP] Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled
- [NJ] Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus
- [O] Ontological Argument, The
- [P] Prayer
- [PA] Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture
- [PE] Personal Experience
- [PJ] Prophecies of Jesus, The
- [PW] Pascal's Wager
- [RN] Religious Need Argument, The
- [S] Science
- [SA] Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
- [SD] Spiritual Disciplines
- [SG] Spiritual Gifts
- [Si] Sin
- [SJ] Sinless Life of Jesus, The
- [ST] Shadows of Christ and Typology
- [Sv] Salvation
- [T] Teleological Argument, The
- [Th] Theology
- [Tr] Trinity, The
- [Tu] Truth Argument, The
- [Tx] Textual Reliability of Scripture
- [UC] Unity and Consistency of Scripture
- [VB] Virgin Birth, The
- [Wi] Witnessing
- [Wo] Worship

Objections List

Specific questions about/objections to Christianity and the elements that can be used to answer them

This is a list of single elements that can be used to help answer specific questions about and objections to Christianity. Also, just like salt is made up of sodium and chloride or water is made up of hydrogen and oxygen, so too the different elements of the Theologetic Table can be combined in different ways to build a strong foundation of apologetic knowledge to combat various questions. Whether to aid in witnessing or the defense of Biblical doctrines, having this resource can be a very helpful tool.

Some in the church may argue that God’s transcendence equates to man not being able to understand God deeper than what is specifically mentioned in the Bible. Others will point to man’s finite limitations making a deeper knowledge of unmentioned subjects impossible to infer about. However, it is our God-given ability to reason and to know that makes inferences about God not only possible but necessary. Since logic is something we all have to use in our daily lives, it only makes sense that we can use it to deduce things about God and other ethical questions. The 4th law of logic, the Law of Logical Inference, is a primary example. So while it would be impossible to know everything about the infinite God who created the entire universe, it is quite apparent that God designed human beings to have free will with a purpose to discover more about Him and His creation.

Haven’t archaeologists proven Christianity is false?
How old is the Earth?
Isn’t there an absence of physical evidence for Christianity to be true?
[A]

Isn’t there more evidence against God existing than for him existing?
[Ab]

Isn’t it enough for Christians just to love others and not verbally defend Christ?
[Ap]

Aren’t there various paradoxes within Christian beliefs?
Aren’t all religions basically the same?
Of all the religions, why is Christianity true?
[B]

Why does general imperfection exist if God is perfect?
[Be]

Jesus was just a good teacher, the Bible doesn’t say Jesus was God.
[BC]

Doesn’t the need for everything to have a cause mean God had to have a cause?
[C]

Isn’t it kind of absurd to think our souls are anything more than just our brains?
[Cn]

Isn’t it a logical fallacy to believe a book is divinely inspired because it says so?
How do we know the books in the Bible are supposed to be part of the Bible?
[CS]

Don’t some churches teach things like baptism being a requirement for salvation?
Why does the church need money?
[CT]

Why is there something rather than nothing?
[Cy]

Isn’t it more likely that the stories of Jesus rising from the dead were fabricated?
[DR]

Did God create the Earth in six literal days?
I hear so many interpretations of the same Bible verses, how can I know the truth?
Is it God’s will that true Christians are healthy and wealthy?
Christians are hypocrites; they pick and choose which commands to obey.
Why do Christians hate gay people?
[EH]

Wasn’t the Bible made up by a specific group of people for their own agenda?
[ET]

If God is real, why doesn’t he show himself so there is no question of his existence?
[F]

How does personal freedom show God exists?
[FW]

Who do Christians believe God is?
Which God are you referring to existing?
[G]

If Adam and Eve were the first and only people, who was Cain’s wife?
How can God exist outside of time and space?
How did God create everything from nothing?
[Ge]

Isn’t it a paradox to believe God is all-powerful and that humans have free will?
[GW]

Doesn’t the Bible contradict other documents written around the same time-period?
[HA]

The theory of evolution has shown that we could have easily evolved without God.
[IT]

If Jesus was really God, why didn’t he just say so in the Bible?
[JD]

There’s no evidence Jesus believed the Old Testament was divinely inspired.
[JS]

Isn’t it more logical to believe no God exists then to believe God does exist?
There is no objective truth.
It’s arrogant to assume you can be certain something is true.
Science is the only way to determine if something is true.
It’s intolerant to presume that your view is better than someone else’s view.
[L]

Why is abortion wrong?
Why is racism wrong?
Doesn’t the Bible support slavery?
Do animals go to Heaven?
[Li]

If God exists then why does he allow suffering and evil?
What’s the Biblical definition of love?
[Lo]

Isn’t it mathematically improbable for God to exist?
[M]

Isn’t the mind powerful enough to heal the body without needing God?
I believe science has all the answers and can explain anything.
[Mi]

Wasn’t Jesus just a good moral teacher?
[MJ]

The God of the Bible is evil.
Doesn’t evil itself disprove Christianity?
[Mo]

Isn’t the Bible just an ordinary, out-dated book?
[MP]

There are no records of Jesus having ever really existed.
[NJ]

Isn’t God just a made up concept?
[O]

If God is all-knowing and all-powerful, what’s the point of prayer?
God can’t be real, personal, and loving, because He doesn’t answer my prayers.
[P]

Weren’t the prophecies in the Bible so vague that we cannot know their meaning?
[PA]

Maybe God exists somewhere in the universe but I don’t think he interacts with us.
[PE]

What evidence is there that Jesus was a prophet?
[PJ]

It’s possible nothing happens when you die so why not just live in the moment?
[PW]

Why don’t things like money, drugs, alcohol and pleasure ever seem to satisfy me?
[RN]

Hasn’t science proven that Christianity is wrong?
[S]

I don’t understand how anyone can still believe in the Bible in this scientific age.
[SA]

If Christians believe faith alone saves, why do they do things like fast and meditate?
[SD]

I’ve heard that you have to speak in tongues to be saved.
Can women be pastors?
Did spiritual gifts cease after the apostolic age?
[SG]

Don’t wars committed by Christians disprove Christianity?
Needing salvation is absurd, people are generally good.
[Si]

What evidence is there that Jesus was without sin?
[SJ]

Isn’t the Old Testament completely unrelated to the New Testament?
Why was Jesus never mentioned in the Old Testament?
[ST]

What does it mean to be saved?
Do babies go to heaven?
Is salvation eternal?
What happens to people who never hear about Jesus?
Don’t I have to earn God’s approval by being a good person or by doing good works?
[Sv]

Isn’t it rational to believe that chance and evolution lead to life?
[T]

All the different Christian denominations prove Christianity is false.
[Th]

It is illogical to believe in the Trinity.
If Jesus didn’t mention it then I don’t believe it was a word from God.
[Tr]

Can’t truth simply come from a naturalistic origin without God?
[Tu]

We don’t even know if the Bible we have today is the same as the original writings.
How did Moses know about the creation account when he wrote Genesis?
[Tx]

Isn’t the Bible full of contradictions?
[UC]

I don’t think it’s important to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus.
[VB]

Can’t Christians mind their own business and let people believe what they want?
[Wi]

What does it mean to worship God?
Why does God require us to worship him?
[Wo]



FOUNDATIONAL

This is the Root Element section of the Table about the foundational elements that the rest of the Table is built upon. There are 6 elements in this section. The following are the lists of basic elements and the foundational element they are built upon;

God's Nature

The Abundance of Arguments Argument
Apologetics
The Beauty Argument
Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity
The Cosmological Argument
The Consciousness Argument
The Canon of Scripture
Church Traditions
The Contingency Argument
The Death and Resurrection of Christ
Exegesis and Hermeneutics
Eyewitness Testimony of Scripture
Faith
The Free Will Argument
Genesis
God's Will
Historical Accuracy of Scripture
Information Theory
Jesus's Claim of Deity
Jesus's Stance on Scripture
Life
Love
The Miracles Argument
The Miracles of Jesus
The Moral Argument
Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled
Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus
The Ontological Argument
Prayer
Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture
Personal Experience
The Prophecies of Jesus
Pascal's Wager
The Religious Need Argument
Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
Spiritual Disciplines
Spiritual Gifts
Sin
The Sinless Life of Jesus
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Salvation
The Teleological Argument
Theology
The Trinity
The Truth Argument
Textual Reliability of Scripture
Unity and Consistency of Scripture
The Virgin Birth
Witnessing
Worship

Logic

The Abundance of Arguments Argument
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The Beauty Argument
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The Death and Resurrection of Christ
Exegesis and Hermeneutics
Eyewitness Testimony of Scripture
Faith
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Genesis
God's Will
Historical Accuracy of Scripture
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Jesus's Stance on Scripture
Life
Love
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The Miracles of Jesus
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The Trinity
The Truth Argument
Textual Reliability of Scripture
Unity and Consistency of Scripture
The Virgin Birth
Witnessing
Worship

Math

Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled
Unity and Consistency of Scripture
Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture
Textual Reliability of Scripture
The Abundance of Arguments Argument
The Trinity
Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity
The Contingency Argument
The Death and Resurrection of Christ
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Historical Accuracy of Scripture
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Jesus's Claim of Deity
Jesus's Stance on Scripture
The Miracles of Jesus
Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus
The Prophecies of Jesus
Pascal's Wager
Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
The Sinless Life of Jesus
Shadows of Christ and Typology

Science

Genesis
Historical Accuracy of Scripture
The Cosmological Argument
Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
The Teleological Argument
Information Theory
The Contingency Argument
The Abundance of Arguments Argument

Archaeology

Genesis
The Miracles Argument
Jesus's Claim of Deity
The Prophecies of Jesus
The Miracles of Jesus
Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity
Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus
The Death and Resurrection of Christ
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The Consciousness Argument
The Religious Need Argument
The Beauty Argument
Pascal's Wager
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The Contingency Argument

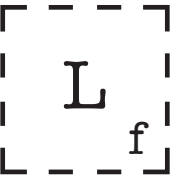


God’s Nature

All of the Basic Elements of the Theologetic Table rely on some aspect of God’s nature
Foundational

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” — A.W. Tozer
As Christians and human beings in general, our folly comes when we focus too much on a specific attribute of God instead of all of Him. ([B] Balance)
Having a fundamental knowledge of God can give us a better understanding of morality, reality and how God operates.

Father		○	Son	○	Holy Spirit	
1	Spirit	spir·it	◦ Immaterial ◦ Incorporeal ◦ Bodiless ◦ Spiritual ◦ Beautiful ◦ Glorious ◦ Light A Being not bound by or to the physical; invisible or visible; full of glory and beauty.		Genesis 1:2	
2	Triune	tri·une	◦ Trinity ◦ Father ◦ Son ◦ Holy Spirit Three in One; constituting a Trinity in unity; The Godhead; 1 of 3 but 3 of 1.		1 Peter 1:2	
3	Aseity	a·se·i·ty	◦ Pure Existence ◦ Pure Being ◦ Existence ◦ Self-Sufficient ◦ Self-Existence Existence originating from and having no source other than Himself.		Exodus 3:14	
4	Simplicity	sim·plic·i·ty	◦ Indivisibility ◦ Pure Actuality Simple; not separable into parts; incapable of being divided.		Deuteronomy 6:4	
5	Necessity	ne·ces·si·ty	◦ Noncontingency ◦ Logically Necessary An absolutely necessary Being; unable to not exist.		Genesis 1:1	
6	Immutability	im·mu·ta·bil·i·ty	◦ Unchangeability ◦ Consistent The inability to change; to be unchangeable; changeless.		Malachi 3:6	
7	Impassibility	im·pass·i·bil·i·ty	◦ Without Passions ◦ Lacking Nothing ◦ Needing Nothing To have unchanging feelings as well as no changing passions.		Acts 17:24-25	
8	Eternality	e·ter·nal·i·ty	◦ Nontemporality ◦ Infinitude ◦ Timelessness ◦ Immortality ◦ Living Eternal existence; infinite; without beginning or end; source of immortality, which has a beginning.		Revelation 22:13	
9	Unity	u·ni·ty	◦ One ◦ Oneness Absence of diversity; unvaried or uniform character.		Romans 3:30	
10	Relatability	re·lat·a·bil·i·ty	◦ Relational ◦ Jealous ◦ Immanence Desiring us to know Him like He knows us; to have personal, intimate relationships.		Jeremiah 23:23-24	
11	Omniscient	om·nis·cient	◦ Knowledge ◦ Wisdom ◦ All-Knowing ◦ Pure Logic Complete unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all.		Psalms 147:5	
12	Omnipotent	om·nip·o·tent	◦ Powerful ◦ Sovereignty ◦ Free ◦ Freedom ◦ Absolute ◦ Almighty Infinite in power; having unlimited authority; accountable to no one; in complete control.		Romans 11:36	
13	Omnipresent	om·ni·pres·ent	◦ Immensity ◦ Multidimensional ◦ Uncontainable ◦ Nonspatiality Present everywhere at the same time; not limited in time or space.		Psalms 139:7-10	
14	Creativity	cre·a·tiv·i·ty	◦ Creator ◦ Brilliance First cause, creating all, physical and spiritual, as well as time and space themselves.		Colossians 1:16	
15	Veracity	ve·rac·i·ty	◦ Truthful ◦ Truth Natural observance of truth in speech, statement and being; unable to lie.		Numbers 23:19	
16	Love	love	◦ Agape ◦ Ahava ◦ Storge ◦ Raya ◦ Phileo ◦ Dod ◦ Eros To have gratuitously profound, passionate affection for us without compensation; source of love.		1 John 4:8-16	
17	Just	just	◦ Impartial ◦ Fair Guided by truth, reason, justice, and fairness in everything.		Romans 9:14-33	
18	Holy	ho·ly	◦ Unmatched ◦ Perfect ◦ Pure ◦ Divine Spiritually pure, entitled to our worship and veneration; sacred.		1 Samuel 2:2	
19	Good	good	◦ Moral ◦ Worthy ◦ Righteousness Morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; pious; the absence of good is evil.		Psalms 25:8	
20	Patient	pa·tient	◦ Enduring ◦ Persistence Continually and steadily persevering; diligently allowing us opportunities to change.		2 Peter 3:9	
21	Faithful	faith·ful	◦ Reliable ◦ Loyal True to His word, promises, and vows by nature.		Psalms 89:8	
22	Merciful	mer·ci·ful	◦ Compassionate ◦ Benevolent Full of mercy; characterized by, expressing, and showing mercy.		1 Peter 1:3	
23	Healer	heal·er	◦ Great Physician ◦ Deliverer ◦ Rescuer ◦ Savior The One who heals us: emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually.		Exodus 15:26	
24	Wrath	wrath	◦ Recompensable ◦ Judge ◦ Judgment Slow to anger but intolerant of sin or evil; to accept Jesus is to escape God’s wrath.		2 Peter 3:7	
25	Gentle	gen·tle	◦ Tenderness ◦ Calm The act of being soothing and gradual, not forceful or severe.		2 Samuel 22:36	
26	Grace	grace	◦ Saving Grace ◦ Clemency Bestowal of blessing unearned or unmerited; manifestation of favor; to pardon when asked.		Psalms 145:17	
27	Peace	peace	◦ Harmony ◦ Salvation ◦ Shalom Security, safety, prosperity, felicity; the way that leads to peace.		1 Corinthians 14:33	
28	Kind	kind	◦ Sympathetic ◦ Generous ◦ Benevolent The One who desires to show kindness to all His creation if we will only accept it.		Isaiah 54:8	
29	Joy	joy	◦ Cause of Jubilee ◦ Emotivity The author and bringer of joy; our source of joy and for being joyful.		1 Thessalonians 1:6	
30	Transcendent	tran·scend·ent	◦ Unique ◦ Unknown ◦ Indescribable ◦ Incomprehensible ◦ Uncategorizable Unlike any other being or thing, known or unknown. His he-ness surpasses physical gender.		Isaiah 55:8-9	
			○	God the Son	○	
31	Humility	hu·mil·i·ty	◦ Altruistic ◦ Lowliness ◦ Meekness ◦ Submissiveness ◦ Selflessness The quality or condition of being humble; Jesus came down to serve and save us through death.		Philippians 2:8	
32	Humanity	hu·man·i·ty	◦ Human ◦ Man ◦ Physical ◦ Matter ◦ Life Jesus was and is God incarnate, fully God but also fully man; The Messiah by birth.		Matthew 1:18	
			○	God the Holy Spirit	○	
33	Helper	help·er	◦ Interceder ◦ Convicter ◦ Comforter ◦ Sanctifier ◦ Teacher ◦ Revealer The One who gives assistance to us; He indwells us, living and working inside us.		Romans 8:26	



Logic

All of the Basic Elements of the Theologetic Table are built on logic
Foundational



Overview: **a.** The Transcendental Argument for God **b.** The origin of logical truths **c.** The illogical statement “God does not exist” **d.** The four fundamental laws of logic **e.** Examples of self-refuting statements and a list of some logical fallacies **f.** Deductive and Inductive Arguments

The Transcendental Argument for God asserts that a necessary, immutable, eternal God, is the precondition for logic. (1)

1. Logical absolutes exist.
2. Logical absolutes are conceptual by nature--are not dependent on space, time, physical properties, or human nature. They are not the product of the physical universe (space, time, matter) because if the physical universe were to disappear, logical absolutes would still be true. Logical Absolutes are not the product of human minds because human minds are different--not absolute.
3. But, since logical absolutes are always true everywhere and not dependent upon human minds, it must be an absolute transcendent mind that is authoring them.
4. This mind is called God.

Logical truths did not come into existence because God created them, and God did not create using what are already pre-existing logical truths. Rather, creation makes sense because God is the ultimate standard of logical truth. The following are some examples and properties of logic that point to the need for this ultimate standard which is God.

While faith is required, it is more logical to believe God exists than to believe no God exists. To claim “God is not real” is a Universal Negative Proposition. The person making this claim is negating God’s existence in reality (the universe). This person requires complete knowledge of God and complete knowledge of reality (the entire universe). To claim “God is real” is a Universal Affirmative Proposition. The person making this claim is affirming God’s existence in reality (the universe). To make a Universal Affirmative Proposition claim normally requires complete knowledge of the subject (God) and only partial knowledge of the predicate (reality/the universe). However, if knowledge can be conveyed from one knowledge holder to another (which it can), and the Christian’s position is that the Bible was given to man by a divine being (God Himself), complete knowledge of God would not be needed by man but only by God himself. On the other hand, while an equally divine source would be required about the universe to truly negate the existence of God, none exists, so the statement is based on man's limited knowledge, thus that makes the statement "God is not real" false. When one makes the statement “God is not real”, he/she is essentially claiming to have an unattainable divine knowledge thus making him/her divine (God). (2)

The four fundamental laws of logic (3)

For any argument to be sound, it cannot break any of these laws

1- The Law of Non-Contradiction:

Something cannot be itself and not itself at the same time in the same way and in the same sense. (A cannot be A and non-A at the same time.)

2- The Law of Excluded Middle:

A statement is either true or false. Thus the statement "A statement is either true or false" is either true or false. A is either A or it is not A.

3- The Law of Identity:

Something is what it is. Something that exists has a specific nature. A is A or A is identical with A.

4- The Law of Logical or Rational Inference:

Law of Sufficient Reason. There should be sufficient reason to all happenings.
If A=B, and B=C, then A=C.

Some things are known to be true by reason alone, this is called “a priori”. If a statement is self-refuting, than as a general rule of logic, it is false without the need for physical, observable evidence. Science on the other hand is generally considered “a posteriori” relying on experience or empirical evidence.

Examples of self-refuting statements (statements that by their very nature are illogical):

- “There is no objective truth” (Then how can this statement be true?)
- “It’s arrogant to assume you can be certain something is true” (Are you certain this statement is true?)
- “Science is the only way to determine if something is true” (This statement can not be scientifically proven.)
- “It’s intolerant to presume that your view is better than someone else’s view” (The person making this statement is assuming their view is better than someone else’s.)

There are 3 tests for truth: logical consistency, empirical adequacy, and existential relevance. A worldview that denies God’s existence fails all three. (4)

Deductive and Inductive Arguments (5)

“A deductive argument is an argument that is intended by the arguer to be deductively valid, that is, to provide a guarantee of the truth of the conclusion provided that the argument's premises are true.”

“An inductive argument is an argument that is intended by the arguer to be strong enough that, if the premises were to be true, then it would be unlikely that the conclusion is false.”

“The concept of deductive validity can be given alternative definitions to help you grasp the concept. Below are five different definitions of the same concept. It is common to drop the word deductive from the term deductively valid:

- An argument is valid if the premises can’t all be true without the conclusion also being true.
- An argument is valid if the truth of all its premises forces the conclusion to be true.
- An argument is valid if it would be inconsistent for all its premises to be true and its conclusion to be false.
- An argument is valid if its conclusion follows with certainty from its premises.
- An argument is valid if it has no counterexample, that is, a possible situation that makes all the premises true and the conclusion false.”

Some logical fallacies often used against Christianity or to present non-Biblical views
<p>Ad Hominem - An attack on a person instead of that person's position.</p> <p>Strawman - A misrepresentation of an argument to make it easier to attack.</p> <p>Appeal to Emotion - Basing an argument on emotion instead of rational reason.</p> <p>Appeal to Popularity - Belief that because many believe something it is validated.</p> <p>Appeal to Authority - Belief that because experts believe something, it is validated. The authority that an expert holds does not have any intrinsic bearing upon whether his/her claims are true or not, and because of this, those claims or beliefs could be wrong. The more experts who hold to the same belief make that belief more likely to be true but could also mean there are outside factors common to each of these experts that influence their belief. ([S] Science)</p> <p>Appeal to Nature - Belief that because something is natural it is good or justified.</p> <p>A Circular Argument - When a conclusion is included in the premise of an argument.</p> <p>The Wishful Thinking Fallacy - Belief that because we wish something to be true or false, it is actually true or false.</p> <p>The Reductionist Fallacy - Assuming a simple, single cause or reason when there were actually multiple causes or reasons. (not to be confused with Occam’s Razor)</p> <p>False Dichotomy - When only two choices are presented yet more exist, or a spectrum of possible choices exists between two extremes.</p>

Resources

1. <https://carm.org/transcendental-argument>
2. Based on a logical argument about the statement “God does not exist” by Joey Stradiot
3. <http://thebattlefortruth.blogspot.com/2008/12/accounting-for-4-fundamental-laws-of.html>
4. Ravi Zacharias 3-4-5 method of analyzing worldviews
5. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/ded-ind/>
6. <https://www.logicalfallacies.info/>

Overview: **a.** Randomness does not truly exist **b.** Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorem **c.** Borel’s Single Law of Chance **d.** Fermi’s Paradox **e.** God as Three Persons **f.** The Origin of the Universe

There is a beauty and symmetry to mathematics that points to God’s existence. Math is sometimes referred to as the universal language (in the same way that music is which is actually based on math) and as such, it is not surprising to see evidence of God written in this language. Mathematics corresponds directly to the physical world (Example: the Higgs Boson particle was discovered after Peter Higgs spent years reviewing purely mathematical equations). The following are some mathematical indicators of the existence of God.

Chance: Randomness does not truly exist. Chance and the supposed limitations of probabilities are just a way we, as finite human beings, express our lack of mathematical knowledge. To say an outcome of any given event is random is not to say the outcome is left to chance, just that to us, the outcome is unknown. (1)

Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorem: Kurt Gödel was a logician, mathematician and philosopher who made several contributions to mathematics, one of which had implications far beyond math. He proved mathematically that;

“Anything you can draw a circle around cannot explain itself without referring to something outside the circle – something you have to assume but cannot prove.”

An outside reference point is ALWAYS required. “Gödel proved that there are ALWAYS more things that are true than what you can prove” which makes faith essential to everything. All reasoning ultimately traces back to faith in something that you cannot prove.

“Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorem applies not just to math, but to everything that is subject to the laws of logic. Everything that you can count or calculate. Incompleteness is true in math; it’s equally true in science or language and philosophy.” (2)

Borel’s Single Law of Chance: French mathematician, Emile Borel, discussed in depth the law of probability known as the Single Law of Chance. This principle states that “events whose probability is extremely small never occur” (1965, p. 57). He also stated that we “at least...must act, in all circumstances, as if they were impossible” (1962, p. 3). This is a law that he said “is extremely simple and intuitively evident, though rationally undemonstrable” (1962, p. 2). The law, he said, applies to “the sort of event, which, though its impossibility may not be rationally demonstrable, is, however, so unlikely that no sensible person will hesitate to declare it actually impossible. If someone affirmed having observed such an event we would be sure that he is deceiving us or has himself been the victim of a fraud” (1962, p. 3). (3)

The probability of intelligent life existing on it’s own: If intelligent life on earth is not unique and arises out of necessity or chance, then the odds of other intelligent beings and civilizations being observed should be greater than an absence of such evidence. There are billions of stars in our galaxy alone, so probability dictates some of them should harbor intelligent life. Fermi’s Paradox named after physicist Enrico Fermi outlines this contradiction between a lack of evidence and high probability estimates such as those given by the Drake equation (formulated by Frank Drake), for the existence of intelligent life and extraterrestrial civilizations.

God as Three Persons: The idea of the Trinity is hard to understand as a finite human being existing in a three-dimensional space but to think of God as a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional being can make the doctrine of the Trinity easier to understand. Example: we think in terms of 1+1+1=3 but God exists as 1x1x1=1.

Origin of the Universe:

Christians: God is infinite God is ∞	Naturalistic Belief: God does not exist God is 0
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The Christian says that God is eternal. This is not just in reference to His origins having no beginning or end but also His power, knowledge, love, sovereignty, etc. And that everything in our universe exists because of God.

Many non-believers (atheists/secularists/evolutionists/humanists) say that God is non-existent. That everything in our universe came from nothing as a result of evolution, natural selection, and chance.

∞ = S + A Where S is any specific number and A is all other numbers	0 = S + A ∞ can not be substituted with a 0. This is a false equation.
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So God, being infinite, created everything out of nothing meaning all things came from Him. The only thing that did not come from God is nothing "0". Nothing is the absence of God. It did not need to be created because, in reality, it does not physically exist.

0 does not contain all numbers, it is the opposite of ∞ and thus, can not possibly, mathematically, logically, or even theoretically be shown to be the origin of anything except itself.

Just like God is light, all colors and spectrums come from light, nothing comes from darkness because in reality darkness does not exist, it is merely the absence of light.

Within reality there are two types of categories of things and two things in each category. The first category is "Uncreated Things" which consists of 1. "God" having no beginning and no end and 2. "Nothing" which also has no beginning and no end because it doesn't physically exist by definition.

The second category is "Created Things" which consists of 1. "immortal things" which have a beginning but no end and 2. "mortal things" which have a beginning and an end (and something else that isn't possible is a thing without beginning and has an end but that is beside the point). Even in modern day science, though some things represented here are not agreed upon, the created category has originated from the uncreated, the difference here between Christianity and modern scientific belief is logic.

It's interesting that when you take any percent of infinity you get an undefined infinite number (infinity), and if you take any percent of zero you get zero. The concept of something having no beginning or end is very difficult to grasp but the concept of zero is not as difficult. That is possibly part of the reason why modern day scientists try to use zero as the source of everything in reality, because it is easier to grasp and define but 0 + 0 = 0, nothing plus nothing mathematically does not and cannot equal everything. Even Stephen Hawking has postulated that something can come from nothing in a quantum vacuum but such a vacuum is not void of energy thus even if this idea were correct, something would come from this energy, not truly from nothing.

God as an imaginary number: An atheist attempting to say that God is imaginary did so in the form of an equation: **GOD = √-1** which mathematically would mean God is like an imaginary number (i). Ironically however, as pointed out by Sy Garte, if God = i, then God is a crucial component in the basic laws of nature as i is often used in mathematics and science. This may seem trivial and perhaps simply arguing semantics but it is important to point out that while we can know God, no one can point to Him physically. Our knowledge of God comes from our minds, despite the evidence, and to some skeptics, equates to God being imaginary. While this is true to a small degree, “Being imaginary does not equate to being false or nonexistent. Neither in modern science nor in theology”. (5)

Surprising Similarities & Differences Between “God” and “Nothing”

God	Nothing
Not Created	Not Created
Eternal	Eternal
Self-Sufficient	Self-Sufficient
Indivisible	Indivisible
Unchangeable	Unchangeable
Omnipresent	Omnipresent

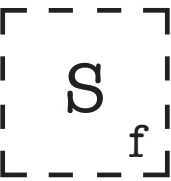
Belief in the One from which all life exists
will lead to eternal life with God

BUT

Belief in the other which does not exist
will lead to eternal separation from God

Resources

- Ideas derived from an argument proposed by VERN POYTHRESS
- <http://cosmicfingerprints.com/incompleteness/>
- <http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=9&article=3726>
- <http://crossexamined.org/mathematical-apologetics-discovering-divine-attributes-math/>
- <https://thebookofworks.com/2018/01/14/is-god-imaginary/>



Science

Many of the Basic Elements of the Theologetic Table are shown to be true to some degree through the laws of science
Foundational



Overview: **a.** The Scientific Method **b.** Astronomically fine-tuned constants and quantities **c.** Irreducibly complex systems **d.** Out of nothing, nothing comes **e.** First Law of Thermodynamics **f.** Second Law of Thermodynamics **g.** The Law of Cause and Effect **h.** The BVG Theorem **i.** Occam’s Razor **j.** The Theory of Macro-Evolution

The Scientific Method - A process that can be used to test the validity of an idea and generally starts with:

1. A question about a specific topic
2. Research of that topic
3. A hypothesis
4. An experimental test of that hypothesis
5. Analysis of the results
6. And the final conclusion.

This is the basic process to obtain scientific knowledge. "Science has proven x" and "Most scientists believe x" are two very different things. While many people may think a belief commonly held by scientists means science has proven that belief, science cannot actually prove anything including things like evolution and the age of the universe. Proofs are only possible in a closed system like logic and mathematics. Nothing has been **proven** scientifically but science relies on interpreting empirical and physical evidence. What science can do, when done properly, is provide us with the best explanation or best existing theory but sometimes, there are other reasons scientists will misinterpret evidence in which case philosophies and paradigms held by many or even the majority of modern scientists can influence scientific outcomes.

Modern sciences have shown almost without question that there are constants and quantities that are built into the fabric of the universe that make life possible. They are so finely tuned, that if any one of them were to be a fraction higher or lower, no physical life of any kind could exist anywhere in the universe. The existence of these constants are not surprising, but the incredibly narrow range that permits life is astonishing!

The following are numbers which represent the maximum deviation from the accepted, life permitting values. (1)

Parameter	Max. Deviation
Ratio of Electrons:Protons	1:10 ³⁷
Ratio of Electromagnetic Force:Gravity	1:10 ⁴⁰
Expansion Rate of Universe	1:10 ⁵⁵
Mass Density of Universe	1:10 ⁵⁹
Cosmological Constant	1:10 ¹²⁰

These values are so narrow that the odds even one of them happened by chance or by necessity unguided by intelligence are astronomical and unreasonable at best, and the odds of them all occurring are realistically zero, see Borel’s Single Law of Chance

Irreducibly complex systems: From the solar system to the cell, there are many systems in nature that are codependent on the many mechanisms within each system. Not only that but each system is dependent on other systems for them to function and for life to exist, meaning if one existed without the others, life would not be possible. An example of this would be the different mechanisms within a single cell needing each other for the cell to function and if any one of the mechanisms were not present the cell would not function at all. The information in a cell’s DNA that tells the cell how to build another cell needs the cell to read the information while the cell needs the information to know what to create, one cannot perform it’s function on its own, they are irreducibly complex.

Ex Nihilo, Nihil Fit. ("Out of nothing, nothing comes")

This concept is probably one of the most testable and verifiable concepts in science. There has never been an observed case of something coming from nothing, even in quantum physics where particles are theoretically believed to arise from a quantum vacuum, pre-existing energy is still required thus, something from nothing is impossible.

First Law of Thermodynamics:

The first law says that although matter and energy can be changed in form, the total quantity of mass/energy is always the same.

Second Law of Thermodynamics:

The second law says the amount of energy in the universe available for work is running down, which is sometimes called entropy.

“If the total amount of mass/energy is fixed and limited (1st law), and the amount of usable energy is decreasing (2nd law), then this universe cannot have existed forever, otherwise it would have already exhausted all usable energy.” and “IF THE UNIVERSE IS WINDING DOWN, WHO WOUND IT UP?”

The Law of Cause and Effect:

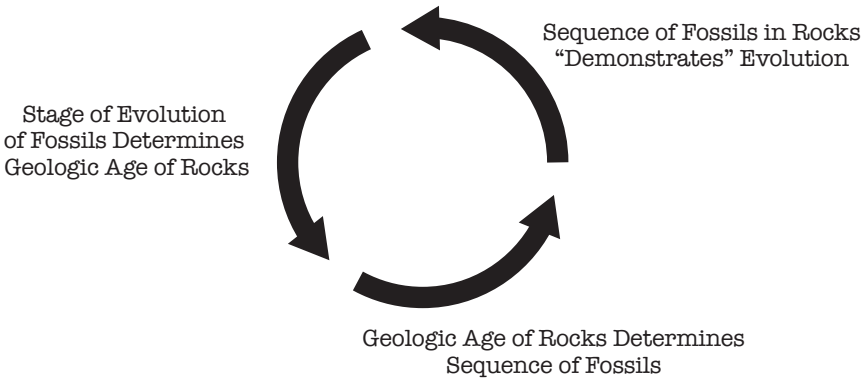
“One very fundamental law of science is the principal of cause and effect: no effect can be greater than its cause. In other words, there can be nothing created which is greater than the thing that created it.” So we know the universe had a beginning and we know that the universe could not have caused itself to exist. (2)

The Borde-Vilenkin-Guth Theorem (BVG Theorem): To put it simply, this theorem shows that a universe with inflation has a beginning. (3)

Occam’s Razor: A problem-solving principle attributed to William of Ockham which can be used in science in the development of theoretical models. It is not considered to be an irrefutable principle of logic or a scientific result. The principle states that "Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily." so if there are competing theories, the simplest **functional** theory is most likely to be true.

Macro-Evolution: When most people think of evolution they think of the theory of macro-evolution which is the theory that one species will give rise to another species given enough time. Most people also think micro-evolution is evidence for macro-evolution. Micro-evolution (a misleading term if there ever was one) is a term used to describe adaptation within a species. Never once has macro-evolution been observed and every instance of micro-evolution has always resulted in the same or less genetic information, never an increase in information which is what would be required for macro-evolution to be possible. This is because micro-evolution is just adaptation. Young Earth Creationism argues from the verifiable evidence for the rate of change within each species that is seen and tested. This change always results in the same species, never a new species. Adherents to Darwinian evolution hold to their theory almost dogmatically; ignoring or dismissing verifiable evidence, using unverifiable assumptions to draw scientific conclusions and use of serious problems with the theory such as circular reasoning.

Circular Reasoning in Historical Geology (6)



While it will likely not be beneficial to argue this point, the militant adherence to this philosophy is not only anti-scientific but has even been argued to belong in the category of religion.

Two of the different Definitions of Religion that fit Darwinian Evolution:

- a particular system of faith and worship.
- a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance.

Should the Layperson Accept Macro-Evolution Since Most Scientists Believe it is a Valid Theory?

Neven Sesardic, former professor of philosophy at Lingnan University, Hong Kong says this about a specific consensus among experts.

1. Most experts publicly reject empirical claim p.
2. Defending p is associated with being attacked on ideological grounds, having one's motives questioned and being ostracized by colleagues.
3. A layperson has a reason not to trust the consensus among experts about p.

Evidence should always be viewed objectively on it’s own merits. Since creationism and even just intelligent design qualify as “p” in the above argument, any reasons given to discredit them should be weighed that much more carefully.

Resources

1. <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/designun.html>
2. <http://www.creationencounter.com/space/lawsofscience.php>
3. William Lane Craig and J. P. Moreland, The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology (Blackwell Publishing 2009), pg. 142
4. Morris, Henry M. The Biblical Basis for Modern Science. Baker Book House
5. <https://carm.org/questions-about-science>
6. Morris, The Biblical Basis for Modern Science (Master Books, 2014) p. 290



Archaeology

Many of the Basic Elements of the Theologetic Table are confirmed to some degree through discoveries in archeology Foundational



Overview: **a.** Archaeological Dating Techniques **b.** Important archaeological discoveries that confirm the Bible’s reliability

"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition." William F. Albright, one of the world's most renowned archaeologists.

"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference." Nelson Glueck, renowned Jewish archaeologist (1)

There are many discoveries in the field of archaeology which confirm the Bible’s validity and that various people and places in the Old and New Testaments truly existed. While logic and math are the most objective and science is fairly objective (although sometimes misused), archaeology is the least objective of the four in that it has various limitations. Similar to scientific discoveries, archaeological discoveries are usually interpreted through the lens of naturalism or materialism. There are other limitations of archaeology too such as poor excavating techniques, conflicting evidence between sites and archaeological hoaxes (2), but aside from the limitations it can and has provided much amazing conformations of Scripture.

Dating Techniques: One major issue with archaeology (and other various fields of science) are the assumptions used to date the age of rocks, fossils, and other things that are discovered. “The main assumption is the constancy of the process rates used to calculate those ages”. (3) Since many scientists have the starting point of naturalism, inaccurate ages are only to be expected. Things recorded in the Bible such as a global flood which is also rejected by most scientists today likely contribute greatly to process rates and starting amounts of isotopes (4) since a global event like that would likely have had a tremendous affect on process rates. With that said, there are varying beliefs and theories on the age of the earth within the church. Some of which are known as the Day-Age Theory and Gap Theory which in and of themselves do not have to have anything to do with Darwinian evolution but are different interpretations of the lengths of time used to describe the creation days discussed in Genesis or long gaps of time between the creation days while others do attribute macro-evolution as the means God used to create. The main reason people interpret the Bible in this way is because they believe the dating techniques used today are reliable which is likely not the case.

These are a few of the more important archaeological discoveries and some of the basic information about them:

Dead Sea Scrolls: One of the most important finds of in the field of biblical archaeology is the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 in the Qumran area on the north-west shore of the Dead Sea. There are approximately 900 documents and fragments that comprise the find. The scrolls predate A.D. 100 and include a complete copy of the book of Isaiah. The significance of the find is the age of the documents and the astonishing lack of variants to documents that have been most trustworthy such as the Masoretic Text, Codex Vaticanus and the Codex Sinaiticus. The vast majority of the variants (about 99 percent) are punctuation or spelling errors. Incredibly, none of the variants changed the meaning of the text, nor did they contain any significant theological differences. This gives us the assurance that the text we have today in our Bible is the same as the early church had two thousand years ago. No other secular manuscripts can make the same claim.

Tel Dan Inscription: This stone tablet contains an inscription that is the first reference to the Davidic dynasty outside of the Bible. It was erected by Hazael, king of Aram, which is present-day Syria. The inscription makes reference to a military victory and corresponds to the biblical account in 2 Chronicles 22. This inscription dates to the 9th century B.C., thus giving us accurate dating to the Davidic dynasty as well verifying its existence. This is the only extra-biblical reference to the House of David that has been discovered to date.

Caiaphas Ossuary: An ossuary is a stone or pottery box in which the remains of a deceased person are buried (an ancient casket). The Caiaphas Ossuary bears the inscription “Yeosef bar Qafa” and is dated to the second temple period. Yeosef (Joseph) was the son of Caiaphas. This verifies that there was a high priest at the time of Jesus and his name was Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the priest that presided over the false trial of Jesus (Matthew 26:57-67).” (5)

The Ebla Tablets: The word “Canaan” appears, contrary to the claims of the critics. The tablets proved that the term was actually used in ancient Syria during the time in which the Old Testament was written. Additionally, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were also thought to be pure fiction by Bible critics. These cities are also identified in the Ebla tablets, in addition to the city of Haran. Haran is described in Genesis as the city of Abram’s father, Terah. Previous to this discovery, ‘scholars’ suspected the actual presence of the ancient city. (6)

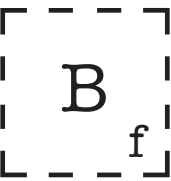
City of Jericho: Discovered that the walls around the city had fallen down flat exactly as recorded in the Bible (Joshua 6:20).

Additional findings:

- The campaign into Israel by Pharaoh Shishak (1 Kings 14:25-26) is recorded on the walls of the Temple of Amun in Thebes, Egypt.
- The revolt of Moab against Israel (2 Kings 1:1; 3:4-27) is recorded on the Mesha Inscription.
- The fall of Samaria (2 Kings 17:3-6, 24; 18:9-11) to Sargon II, king of Assyria, is recorded on his palace walls.
- The defeat of Ashdod by Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1) is recorded on his palace walls.
- The campaign of the Assyrian king Sennacherib against Judah (2 Kings 18:13-16) is recorded on the Taylor Prism.
- The siege of Lachish by Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:14, 17) is recorded on the Lachish reliefs.
- The assassination of Sennacherib by his own sons (2 Kings 19:37) is recorded in the annals of his son Esarhaddon.
- The fall of Nineveh as predicted by the prophets Nahum and Zephaniah (2 Kings 2:13-15) is recorded on the Tablet of Nabopolasar.
- The fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-14) is recorded in the Babylonian Chronicles.
- The captivity of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, in Babylon (2 Kings 24:15-16) is recorded on the Babylonian Ration Records.
- The fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:30-31) is recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder.
- The freeing of captives in Babylon by Cyrus the Great (Ezra 1:1-4; 6:3-4) is recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder. (6)

Resources

1. <http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/08/one-way.htm>
2. https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_406.cfm
3. <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/radiometric-dating/dating-techniques/>
4. <https://answersingenesis.org/age-of-the-earth/dating-methods/>
5. <https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-archaeology.html>
6. <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/critics-of-bible-silenced-once-again-archaeological-discoveries-prove-old-testament-to-be-accurate/>
7. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/25/archaeological-confirmations-of-scripture/>
8. Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk through Biblical History and Culture. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. Produced by Evangelical Biblical Scholars
9. <http://www.equip.org/article/biblical-archaeology-factual-evidence-to-support-the-historicity-of-the-bible/>



Balance

Various Basic Elements of the Theologetic Table within the Theological category require a balance of contrasting ideas and other elements Foundational

Overview: **a.** The balance between paradoxical ideas of Christianity **b.** Personal balance between “good” things in the world and God **c.** All the books of the Bible have the same message **d.** How Christianity is the most balanced, logical worldview **e.** Incompleteness **f.** Belief in God

“Logical paradoxes arise from the attempt by the human mind to unify or to coordinate the multiple facets of experience. Because of the diversity and complexity of reality and also because of the limitations of finite and sinful human reason, man’s best efforts to know reality bring him only to the production of equally reasonable (or apparently so) yet irreconcilable (or apparently so) truths. In such cases man may be nearer the truth when he espouses both sides of a paradoxical issue than when he gives up one side in favor of the other.” (1)

The following are dual or contrasting subjects that a combination of the two are **likely** the truth instead of just one or the other:

- Calvinism (God chooses who are saved) or Arminianism (the unsaved choose God)**
- Faith (belief in God without evidence) or Evidence (validation of God aside from faith)**
- Responsibility to witness to the lost or the Holy Spirit moves the hearts of the lost**
- Knowledge of God through arguments and evidence or knowledge of God through a relationship with Him**

The following are dual or contrasting subjects that a combination of the two are **certainly** the truth instead of just one or the other:

- Jesus is 100% man and Jesus is 100% God**
- God is three persons and God is one being**
- God is loving towards His creation and God is just towards His creation**
- Faith (belief in Jesus is required for salvation) and Works (a changed life is the product of salvation)**

The gifts God has given us (sex, health, money, etc.) can become idols without balancing them with a relationship with God. Focussing too much on things of the world, even good things can lead to idolatry, addiction or even just a distraction from growing closer to God. Even if someone focuses too much on apologetics or different aspects within religion, that can become an idol if that person allows it to replace their relationship with God.

Every one of the 66 books of the Bible have the same overall message of God’s redemption of man and his love for us. This is either an outlandishly amazing coincidence or strong evidence the Bible was truly inspired by God.
([UC] Unity and Consistency of Scripture)

Also for a worldview to make sense it must be “balanced” and pass the 3-4-5 method of analyzing worldviews.

First, there are three tests that a worldview must pass:

1. logically consistent – Its teachings cannot be self-contradictory.
2. empirically adequate – Its teachings must match what we see in reality.
3. existentially relevant – Its teachings must speak directly to how we actually live our lives.

Second, each worldview must address the following four ultimate questions:

1. origin – Where do the universe and human beings come from?
2. meaning – What is the meaning or purpose of life?
3. morality – How do we know what is right and what is wrong?
4. destiny – What happens to us after we die?

Third, there are five academic disciplines that must be employed to study a worldview:

1. theology – the study of God
2. metaphysics – the study of what is ultimately real
3. epistemology – the study of how we can know things
4. ethics – the study of moral right and wrong
5. anthropology – the study of what and who humans are

When religions are analyzed with this method, Christianity is the most compelling option. (2)

In a sense, balance is the opposite of incompleteness, and incompleteness is actually a strong explanation for the hard to understand circumstances in this life. When we as Christians consider that hard to explain situations are due to God’s work being incomplete, this brings meaning and hope to this life. Meaning in that God is at work on something greater than what we know. And hope in the fulfilment and completion of God’s plan for us and the world.

Our belief in God needs to be balanced as well. Many skeptics deny God’s existence because of a lack of full understanding of Him focusing too much on one or some attributes of God. ([G] God’s Nature) **Even cults have arisen because of an incomplete picture of who God is.**

Resources

1. W. A. Elwell, Evangelical Dictionary of Theology; E. J. Carnell, Philosophy of the Christian Religion; H. De Morgan, Budget of Paradoxes; V. Fern, Encyclopedia of Morals; C. F. H. Henry
2. <http://www.toughquestionsanswered.org/2012/06/08/how-should-we-analyze-a-worldview/>

1. GOD

This is the 1st Basic Element section of the Table about God. It gives evidence for basic theism and for the God of the Bible being the One true God. There are 16 elements in this section which are;

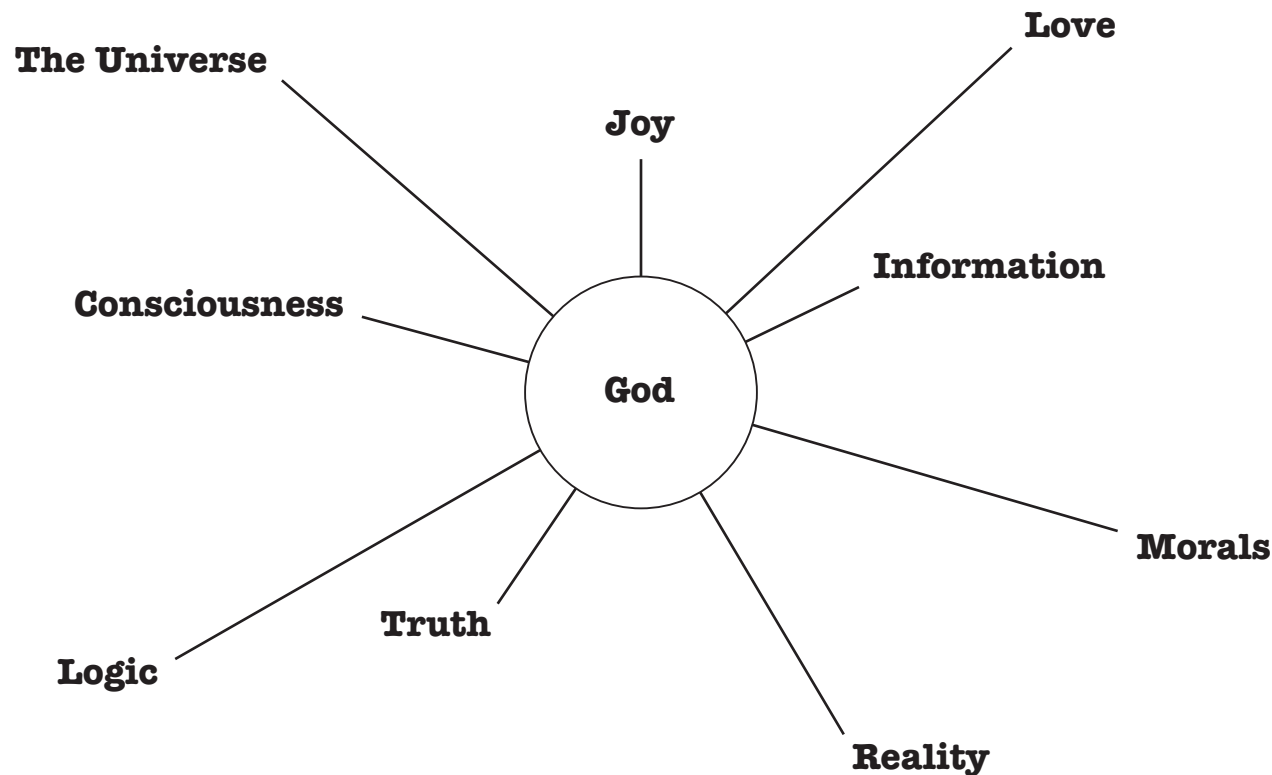
1.1 The Cosmological Argument
1.2 The Teleological Argument
1.3 The Moral Argument
1.4 The Ontological Argument

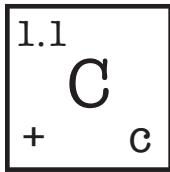
1.5 The Miracles Argument
1.6 The Consciousness Argument
1.7 The Religious Need Argument
1.8 The Beauty Argument

1.9 Pascal's Wager
1.10 The Free Will Argument
1.11 Information Theory
1.12 The Truth Argument

1.13 The Trinity
1.14 Personal Experience
1.15 The Contingency Argument
1.16 The Abundance of Arguments Argument

The evidence points strongly to a singularity as the cause of the universe. The Bible has recorded this for thousands of years; God is the single cause of the universe, but it goes deeper than just the physical. All good things emanate from God. Logic emanates from the mind of God. Love, Joy, Truth are all from God's Being. While this is a broad statement, not specific to the God of the Bible, there are aspects about God such as the Trinity and Jesus as God incarnate that point to the Biblical God being the One true God.





The Cosmological Argument

Similar to or also known as The Kalam Cosmological Argument, The Contingency Argument, The Argument From Universal Causation, The Causation Argument, The Argument from Motion, The Efficient Causality Argument and The Change Argument

Scientific Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline (Kalam)

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause

Additional Outline

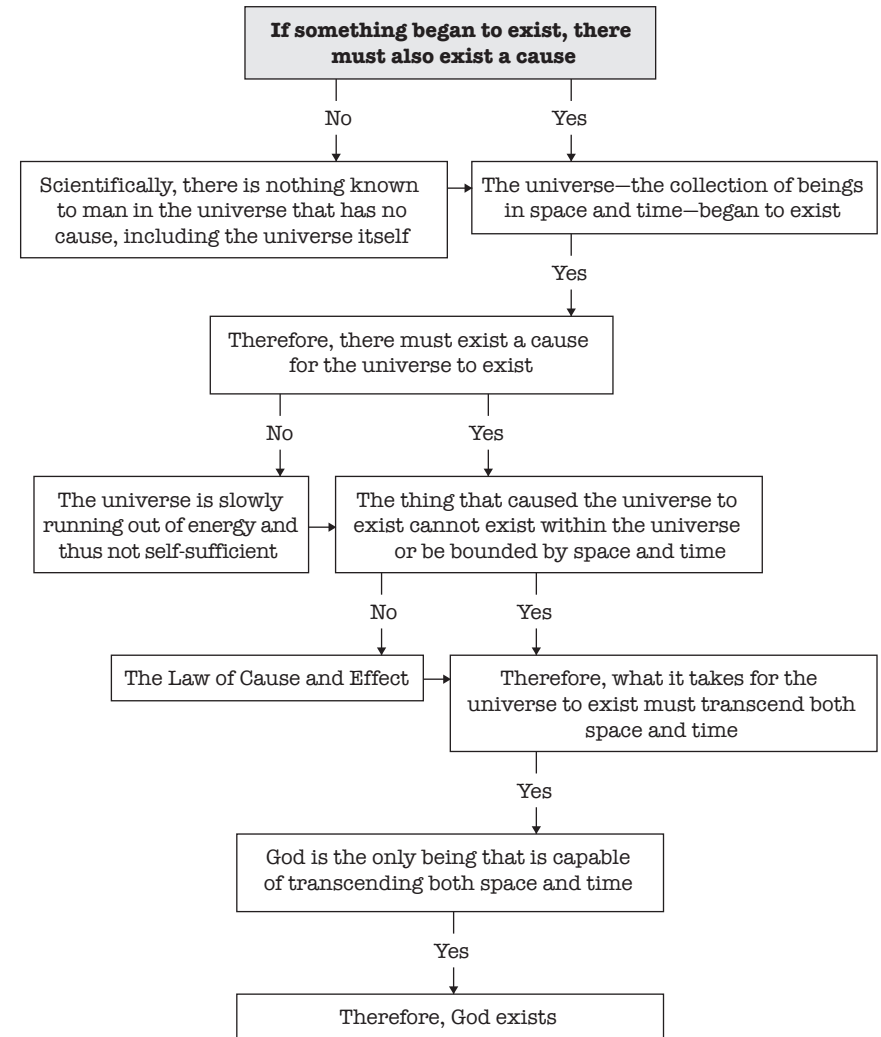
1. If something began to exist, there must also exist a cause.
2. The universe—the collection of beings in space and time—began to exist.
3. Therefore, there must exist a cause for the universe to exist.
4. The thing that caused the universe to exist cannot exist within the universe or be bounded by space and time.
5. Therefore, what it takes for the universe to exist must transcend both space and time.
6. God is the only being that is capable of transcending both space and time.
7. Therefore, God exists.

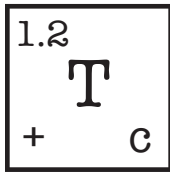
Related Information

Since God exists outside of time ([G] God's Nature - Eternality), He has no beginning, and logically needs no cause. "A cause is a thing previously existing, which has not only the power to bring into existence something not previously existing, but which has actually produced it." (2) As Dr. William Lane Craig has pointed out, the first cause of the universe has to be either an unembodied, personal mind that has freedom of will or an abstract object. An abstract object cannot cause anything so it must be an unembodied, personal mind; God. (5)

Resources

1. Geisler, Noman L. Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics. Baker Academic, 2007. 276-283. Print.
2. C.A. Row, Christian Theism (London: Thomas Whittaker, 1880), p. 49.
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/12/01/cosmological-arguments/>
4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/first-cause-other-thomistic-cosmological-arguments/>
5. <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/question-answer/P20/personal-god>





The Teleological Argument

Similar to The Design Argument, The Argument from Irreducible Complexity, The Argument from the Fine-Tuning of Physical Constants, Argument from the Existence of Arguments and The Argument from Harmony Scientific Evidence

Analysis



Basic Outline

1. All designs imply a designer.
2. There is great design in the universe.
3. Therefore, there must be a Great Designer of the universe.

Definition

Teleology

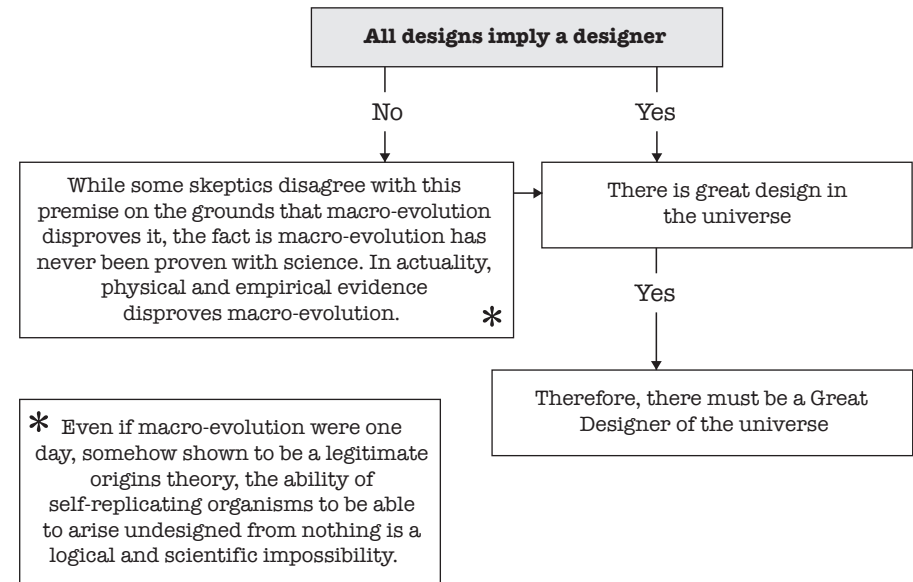
The doctrine of design and purpose in the material world.

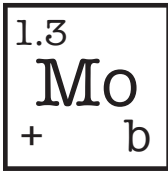
Related Information

Modern sciences have shown almost without question that there are many constants and quantities that are built into the fabric of the universe that make life possible. They are so finely tuned, that if any one of them were to be a fraction higher or lower, no physical life of any kind could exist anywhere in the universe. Other than fine tuning there is also the co-dependence and the irreducible complexity of various natural mechanisms. (4) Some would try and make an argument for the existence of a multiverse consisting of an infinite number of universes making fine tuning probable for a fraction of the universes within it. However, this only makes a “universe generator” necessary that requires even more fine tuning than our universe alone, so it does not discredit the Teleological Argument but strengthens it (if it did not contain logical inconsistencies).

Resources

1. Geisler, Noman L. Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics. Baker Academic, 2007. 276-283. Print.
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/12/17/teleological-design-arguments/>
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/arguments-from-cosmological-fine-tuning/>
4. <http://www.ideacenter.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/840>





The Moral Argument

Similar to The Argument from Perfect Justice, The Anthropological Argument, The Conscience Argument, The Argument from Altruism and contrastingly similar to The Existence of Evil Argument
Philosophical Evidence

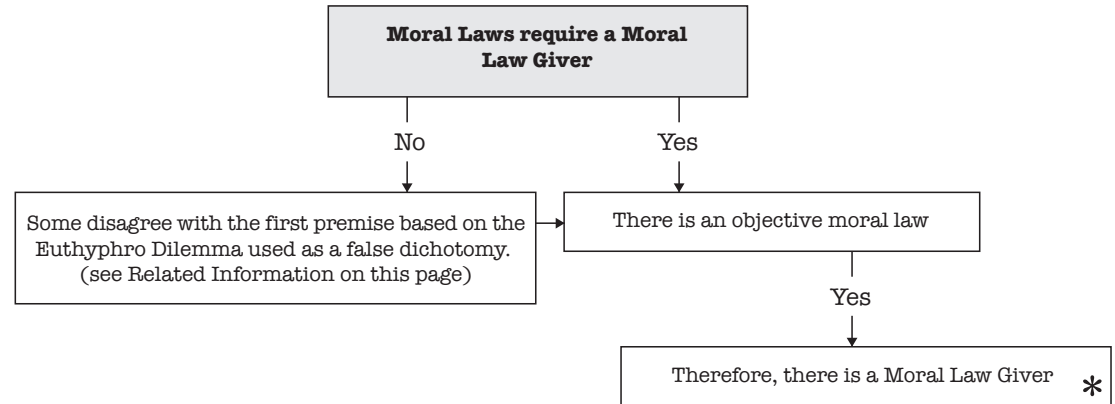
[Analysis](#)

Basic Outline

1. Moral Laws require a Moral Law Giver.
2. There is an objective moral law.
3. Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver.

Additional Outline

1. Morality is a rational enterprise.
2. Moral Realism is true, meaning moral facts and values exist.
3. Moral problems and disagreements among humans are too great for us to assume moral facts and values are grounded in a human source of rationality.
4. Moral facts and values are grounded in a necessary rational source.
5. This source is what we call God.
6. Therefore, God exists.



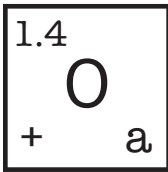
* Some argue that because evil exists, God does not exist or at least an all-powerful, all-loving God does not exist. To make this argument, the arguer makes an assumption that there is an objective moral law, otherwise, the definition of what is evil becomes subjective rendering the argument itself pointless. Similarly, some argue that the God of the Bible is evil, based on their own definition of what good is (and major misconceptions about the Bible). This too renders the argument pointless as the argument requires the objectivity of morality to be valid.

Related Information

To live as Christ, it is always the means that justify the ends. The Euthyphro Dilemma presented by Socrates is essentially this: “Is something good because the gods will it or do the gods will something because it is good?” The question actually appears to present a false dichotomy as the answer to the dilemma is God wills something because He is good. It is almost as though Socrates recognized the “gods” they believed in were not enough, that some ultimate standard for good had to exist, this standard is God. An argument often used against the God of the Bible existing is that God unjustly commanded the killing of “innocent” people but if God is the giver of life, He can also take away life. God cannot murder, He can only justly take away what he has given. Also, the standard for good has to be timeless, for to be in time means to change. Good cannot evolve as society changes since there is no basis to compare the good to, it would only be what it is, not good or bad. If good changes, becoming better or worse depending on popular opinion, there really isn’t good or bad, just actions. But as we can see in everyday life, good and bad truly do exist, even if the lines are blurred in some circumstances.

Resources

1. Geisler, Noman L. Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics. Baker Academic, 2007. 276-283. Print.
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/arguments-from-morality/>
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/can-we-be-good-without-god/>



The Ontological Argument

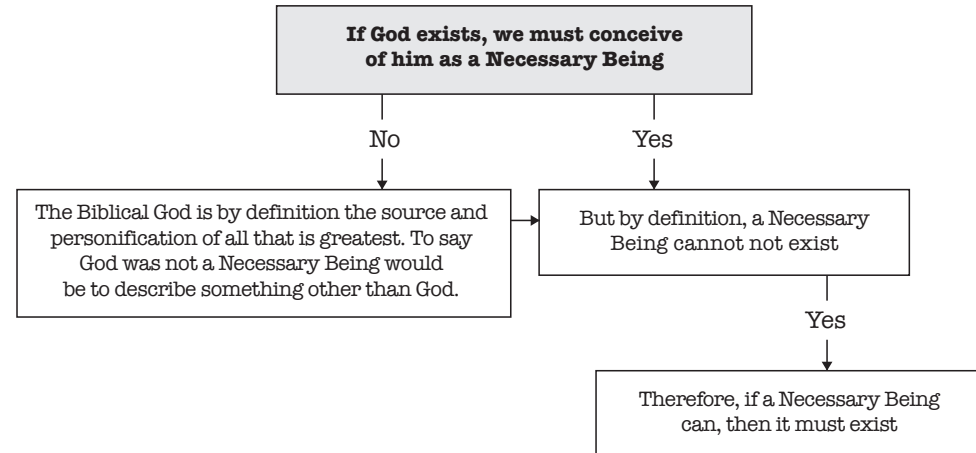
Similar to The Argument from the Origin of the Idea of God and Gödel's ontological proof

Philosophical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

1. If God exists, we must conceive of him as a Necessary Being.
2. But by definition, a Necessary Being cannot not exist.
3. Therefore, if a Necessary Being can, then it must exist.



Anselm's 2nd Classical Version

1. By definition, God is a being than which none greater can be imagined.
2. A being that necessarily exists in reality is greater than a being that does not necessarily exist.
3. Thus, by definition, if God exists as an idea in the mind but does not necessarily exist in reality, then we can imagine something that is greater than God.
4. But we cannot imagine something that is greater than God.
5. Thus, if God exists in the mind as an idea, then God necessarily exists in reality.
6. God exists in the mind as an idea.
7. Therefore, God necessarily exists in reality.

Basic Modal Version (3)

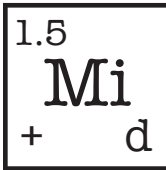
1. God is, as a conceptual matter (that is, as a matter of definition) an unlimited being.
2. The existence of an unlimited being is either logically necessary or logically impossible.
3. The existence of an unlimited being is not logically impossible.
4. Therefore, the existence of God is logically necessary.

Related Information

St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury (1033-1109), is known for his version of the Ontological Argument. Some critics object to this argument by using something like a unicorn in the argument instead of God but a unicorn is not logically necessary, replacing God with the number 2 in the basic form would be a bit more appropriate.

Resources

1. Geisler, Noman L. Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics. Baker Academic, 2007. 276-283. Print.
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/ontological-arguments/>
3. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/ont-arg/>



The Miracles Argument

Similar to The Argument from Supernatural Events
Historical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

1. A miracle is an event whose only adequate explanation is the extraordinary and direct intervention of God.
2. There are numerous well-attested miracles in history.
3. Therefore, there are numerous events whose only adequate explanation is the extraordinary and direct intervention of God.
4. Therefore, God exists.

Related Information

When it comes to Jesus and Christianity 'We have no other founder of a major world religion who has miracles reported of him within a generation.' (2) The mind is a powerful thing. Scientists and psychologists have tested the placebo effect in various situations, however, the limits to this effect are quite high and cannot explain most miracles. Miracles, by definition, are events caused by the intervention of God. If someone makes the claim that a miracle is an event that will one day be proven with science (wishful thinking fallacy), where does the burden of proof actually fall, on the person that claims God was the cause or the person that claims science was the cause? Some claim miracles are events that violate the laws of nature but the following is a sound explanation of miracles:

P1: Miracles are not violations of nature's law, but suspensions of nature's laws.

P2: If God created nature's laws, God can suspend nature's laws.

P3: God created nature's laws.

C1: Therefore, God can suspend nature's laws.

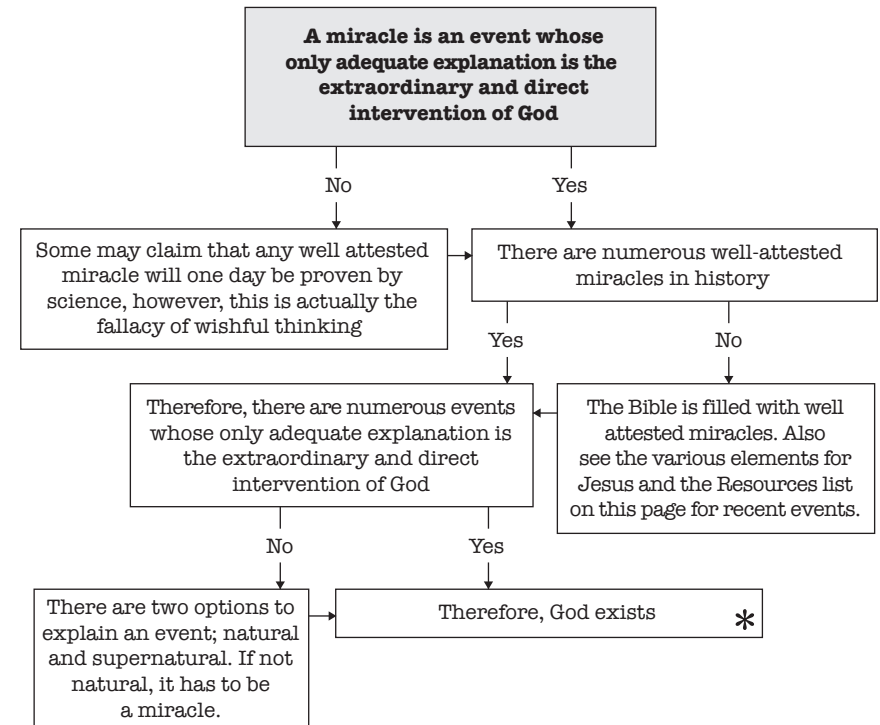
C2: Therefore, God can perform miracles. (3)

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

-Writer Arthur C Clarke

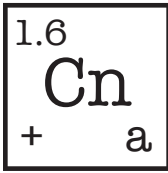
Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/arguments-from-miracles-and-providence/>
2. <http://www.garyhabermas.com/Evidence2/Habermas-Uniqueness-of-Jesus-Christ-2016.pdf>
3. <http://apologetics-notes.comereason.org/2017/01/why-believing-in-miracles-is-not.html>
4. <https://jamesbishopblog.com/2015/02/24/40-short-miracle-testimonies-from-keeners-book-miracles-and-quotes/>
5. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/miracles/>
6. Craig S. Keener, Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts (2011)



* Some argue that because all major religions claim miracles, attributing them to their deity/philosophy and since these religions are not compatible with each other, all accounts of miracles are viewed as being false claims. While it is possible and even likely that some are false claims for various reasons, there is another probable explanation and that is that supernatural forces of evil cause miracles for the reason to deceive non-Christians. The Miracles Argument proves the supernatural and compared with all other available evidence, proves the existence of the God of the Bible.

([PE] Personal Experience)



The Consciousness Argument

Philosophical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

1. Consciousness is either a property of a non-conscious reality or of an ultimate consciousness.
2. Consciousness is not a property of a non-conscious reality.
3. Therefore, consciousness is a property of an ultimate consciousness.

Additional Outlines

1. Mental events are genuine nonphysical mental entities that exist.
2. Specific mental and physical event types are regularly correlated.
3. There is an explanation for these correlations.
4. Personal explanation is different from natural scientific explanation.
5. The explanation for these correlations is either a personal or natural scientific explanation.
6. The explanation is not a natural scientific one.
7. Therefore, the explanation is a personal one.
8. If the explanation is personal, then it is theistic.
9. Therefore, the explanation is theistic

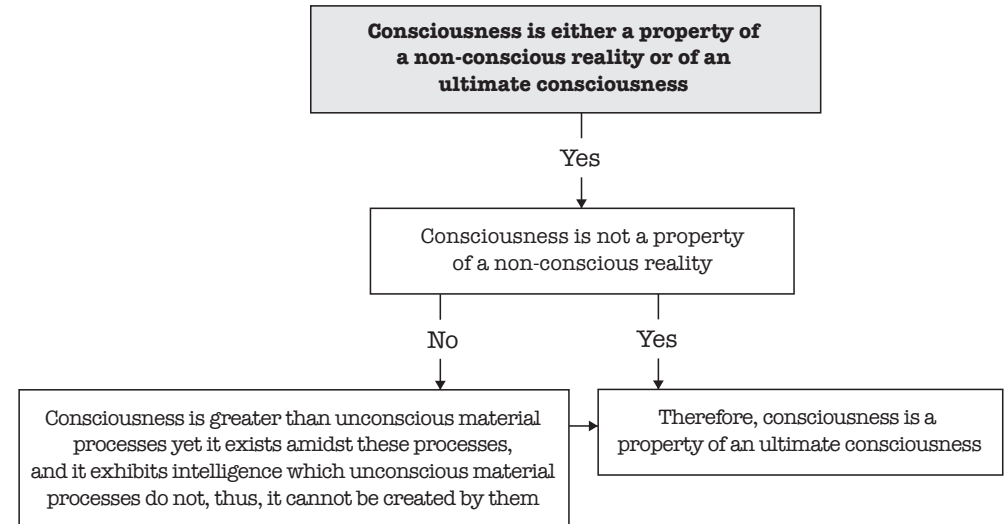
1. We experience the universe as intelligible. This intelligibility means that the universe is graspable by intelligence.
2. Either this intelligible universe and the finite minds so well suited to grasp it are the products of intelligence, or both intelligibility and intelligence are the products of blind chance.
3. Not blind chance.
4. Therefore this intelligible universe and the finite minds so well suited to grasp it are the products of intelligence.

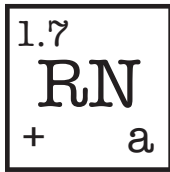
Related Information

It can be argued that the single most complex thing we know of in the entire physical universe is the human brain.

Resources

1. <https://thinkinghithoughts.wordpress.com/2016/11/23/consciousness-is-supernatural/>
2. <https://appearedtobloggly.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/the-argument-from-consciousness.pdf>
3. Kreeft and Tacelli 1994, 66.
4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/11/arguments-from-consciousness/>





The Religious Need Argument

Similar to The Religious Experience Argument, The Argument from Joy, The Common Consent Argument
Argument from Desire and Sensus Divinitatus or Sense of the Divine
Philosophical Evidence

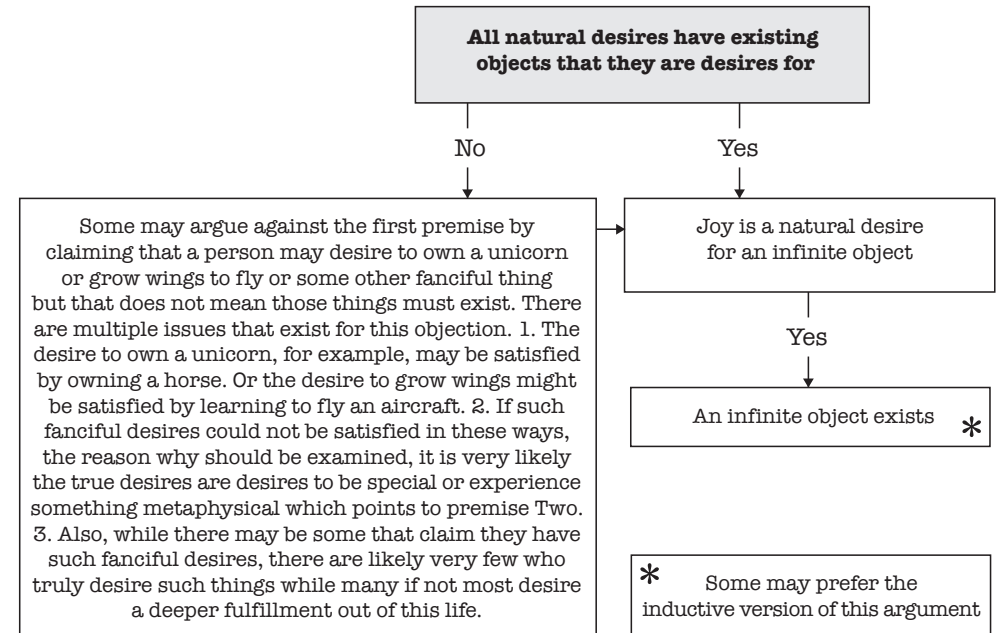
Analysis

Basic Outline

1. All natural desires have existing objects that they are desires for.
2. Joy is a natural desire for an infinite object.
3. An infinite object exists.

Inductive Version

1. Humans have by nature a desire for the transcendent.
2. Most natural desires are such that there exists some object capable of satisfying them.
3. Therefore, there is probably something transcendent.

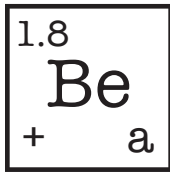


Related Information

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. (2)

Resources

1. C. S. Lewis
2. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco Publishers, 2001), 136-137.
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2014/01/07/arguments-from-mystical-or-religious-experience/>
4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/arguments-from-authority-common-consent-naturalness-of-theistic-belief/>
5. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/01/07/arguments-from-desire/>
6. Peter S. Williams in "Pro: A Defense of C. S. Lewis's Argument from Desire," p. 39.



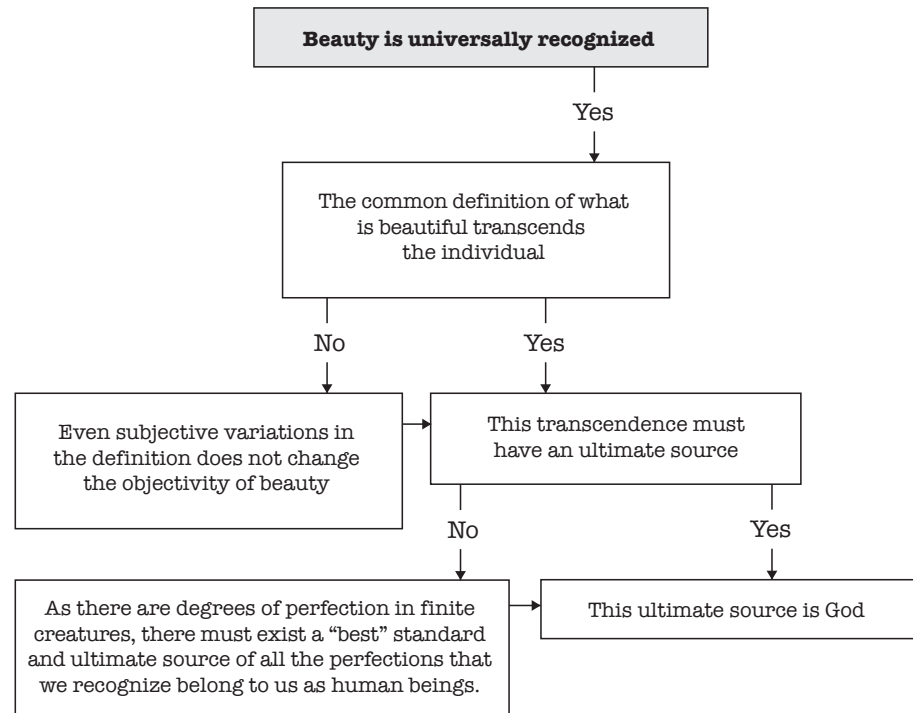
The Beauty Argument

Similar to The Argument From Universal Beauty and Pleasure, The Beauty and Aesthetics Argument, The Aesthetic Experience Argument and The Argument from the Beauty of Physical Laws
Philosophical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

1. Beauty is universally recognized.
2. The common definition of what is beautiful transcends the individual.
3. This transcendence must have an ultimate source.
4. This ultimate source is God.



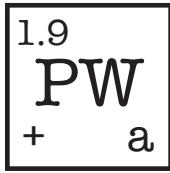
Related Information

It would seem that logically, imperfection exists because of sin. The Bible says the pre-fallen world was good but after sin entered the picture, Adam and Eve allowed for the distortion of what God had made good which would also include pleasure, aesthetics, and beauty.

Beauty, wherever it is seen, reflects what is known by the beholder. "Symmetry, that's imitation like kaleidoscopes or round stained glass, is often a great producer of beauty. We recognize beautiful accidental symmetry in nature, like an order of stones on the beach. But what do these random organizations reflect if there is no organization to be had in the first place? Reflections are only as good as the thing they reflect, so the beauty cannot be in the rocks themselves, no matter how many times it multiplies. So there must be a transcending beauty in relation to all creation. Other aspects of beauty that demand explanation is why we find it valuable, why we find its creation valuable, why we find its contemplation and consummation valuable, and why we don't seem to find any natural sort of ugliness in nature." (1)

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/arguments-from-beauty-and-aesthetics/>



Pascal's Wager

Philosophical Evidence

Analysis



Basic Outline

1. Correct belief in God's existence means infinite gain.
2. Incorrect disbelief in God's existence means infinite loss.
3. Correct disbelief in God's existence means finite gain.
4. Incorrect belief in God's existence means finite loss.
5. Thus, belief in God's existence is the most logical choice, even if it was incorrect.

	And God exists	And God does not exist
I believe	$+\infty$ (infinite gain)	-1 (finite loss)
I don't believe	$-\infty$ (infinite loss)	+1 (finite gain)

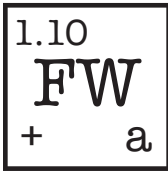
Related Information

Of all the arguments in this Table, this argument is a unique use of logic in that it does not prove God's existence, merely shows that logic dictates belief in God outweighs disbelief (Pragmatic Argument). Belief can come in varying degrees but the Bible shows that to spend eternity with God in heaven requires belief in Jesus as your Lord and saviour. The Bible is clear that there is no other way to the Father but through Jesus and by not putting faith in Him means spending eternity apart from God. The definition of belief in this context is faith and trust; when we acknowledge we are sinners who need God and that the only perfect sacrifice for our sins is Jesus Christ. Believing this and choosing to give one's life to Jesus is what it means to believe.

It's notable to mention that many do not like this argument because it seems to bypass the search for what is true in favor of what is safe but this shouldn't be used as a stand-alone argument. In conjunction with other evidence about the God of the Bible, Pascal's Wager is an affirming use of logic for what the Bible says about God. Also, belief in God because of this argument alone isn't really belief but more so an insurance policy based on fear but to really believe in God means to follow and know Him personally.

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/pascals-wager/>
2. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pragmatic-belief-god/#PraArg>



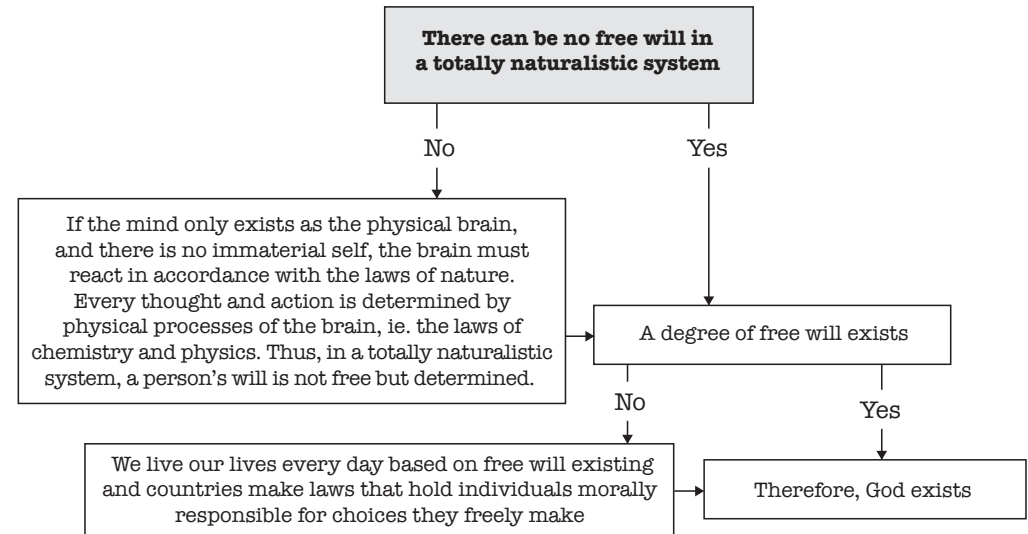
The Free Will Argument

Philosophical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

1. There can be no free will in a totally naturalistic system.
2. A degree of free will exists.
3. Therefore, God exists.



Related Information

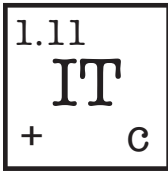
Some denominations within Christianity would argue against human free will or against specific aspects of it. There are various logical and Biblical reasons to believe man has an element of free will. One argument supporting this is as follows;

- 1: If Men Aren't Free In A Libertarian Sense, They Cannot Be Held Responsible For Wrongdoing.
- 2: The Bible teaches that God will hold men accountable for wrongdoing.
- 3: Therefore, men have Free Will in a libertarian sense. (2)

In some secular schools of thought, but not all, free will is non-existent. Determinism from the Naturalism worldview states that impersonal forces of nature beyond human control determine the outcome of life's events. The problem with free will not existing is that we all live as though we have free will. Belief that it does not exist fails the test of existential relevance. As an example, someone who argues that free will is an illusion proves they do not really believe that it is or else they would not need to needlessly argue about it. In fact, if there were no free will, it could be argued that life would have no meaning at all.

Resources

1. http://www.conservapedia.com/Arguments_for_the_existence_of_God#Free_will_argument
2. <http://crossexamined.org/5-arguments-existence-free-will/>



Information Theory

Scientific Evidence

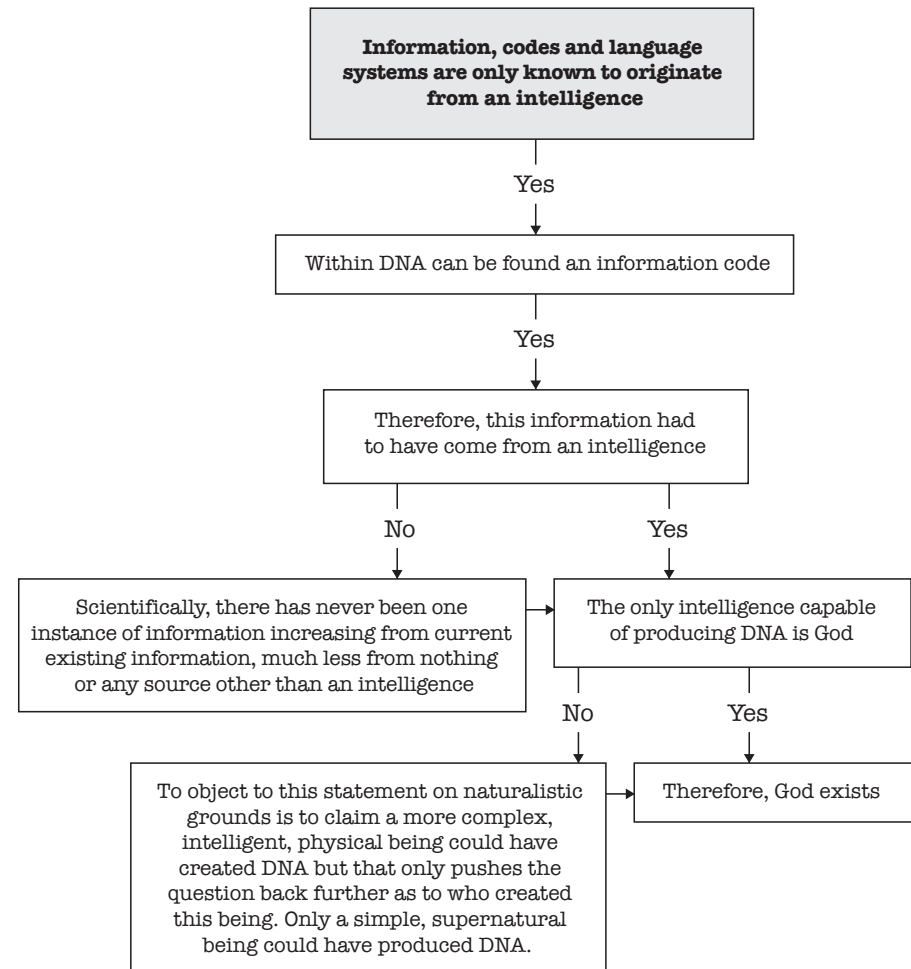
Analysis

Basic Outline

1. Information codes and language systems are only known to originate from an intelligence.
2. Within DNA can be found an information code.
3. Therefore, this information code had to have come from an intelligence.
4. The only intelligence capable of producing DNA is God.
5. Therefore, God exists.

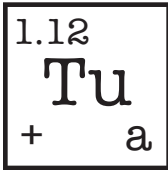
Related Information

DNA is now known to be far more complex than originally believed. As such, there are various issues with the modern theory of Darwinian evolution. DNA could not have arisen without proteins in the cell having existed first to produce it and the proteins would also first require DNA to exist to create them. DNA and proteins are codependent on each other to have first existed. Macro evolution has never once been observed. Every single instance of micro evolution (change within a species) has always resulted in the same or less information in DNA, never an increase in information--that is to say when duplications or mutations occur, a species' DNA always has the same "blueprints" for that species and never new information that changes that species' genome "blueprint" to create another species' genome.



Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/arguments-from-intelligent-design-in-biology/>
2. <https://answersingenesis.org/genetics/mutations/evidence-of-new-genetic-information/>
3. <https://creation.com/astounding-dna-complexity-uncovered>



The Truth Argument

Similar to The Argument from Reason and The Transcendental Argument
Philosophical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

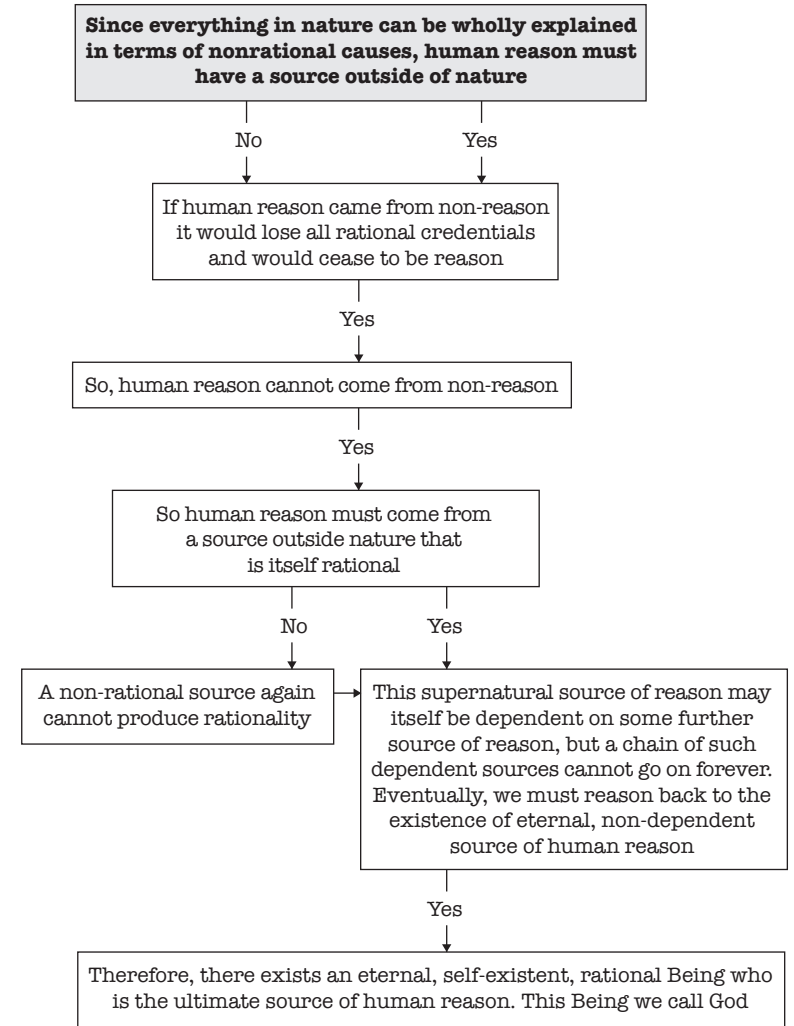
1. Since everything in nature can be wholly explained in terms of non-rational causes, human reason (more precisely, the power of drawing conclusions based solely on the rational cause of logical insight) must have a source outside of nature.
2. If human reason came from non-reason it would lose all rational credentials and would cease to be reason.
3. So, human reason cannot come from non-reason.
4. So human reason must come from a source outside nature that is itself rational.
5. This supernatural source of reason may itself be dependent on some further source of reason, but a chain of such dependent sources cannot go on forever. Eventually, we must reason back to the existence of eternal, non-dependent source of human reason.
6. Therefore, there exists an eternal, self-existent, rational Being who is the ultimate source of human reason. This Being we call God.

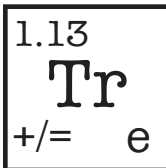
Related Information

While logic itself is foundational to all arguments, this argument outlines why God exists if truth exists. Post-modern cultural belief does not adhere to truth being objective which poses issues when witnessing but can logically be shown to be false.

Resources

1. Lewis, Miracles, chap. 4
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/principle-of-sufficient-reason/>
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/25/arguments-from-reason/>
4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/03/20/postmodernism-relativism-and-truth/>





The Trinity

Theological Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



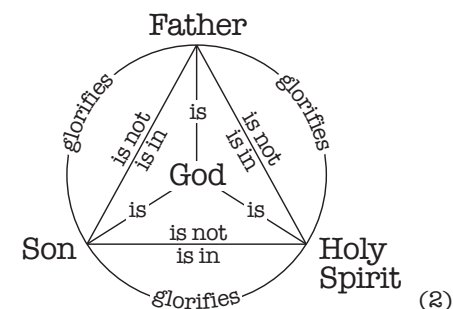
God being Triune makes sense with a relational and a loving God. If God existed alone as a singularity, there would have been no one for God to have a relationship with or show love towards before creation. The Trinity of God provides an ultimate source of relationships and love. Some would argue that only a duality would then be required but the many evidences found in Scripture for the Trinity shows God is more than two persons. Other's would point to polytheism also being a possibility since a multitude of gods would produce relationships and love but Occam's Razor shaves off the need for more than what is discussed in the Bible given the other strong evidences for the Bible's reliability and for God's Triune nature. Also, the Trinity solves one of the first philosophical problems about why there is both unity and diversity in reality. This issue is often referred to as "the problem of the one and the many" debated by ancient Greek philosophers in the 5th and 6th centuries B.C. (1)

The concept of God being three in one is not an easy concept for one to wrap his mind around. In fact, there are some who claim Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not God or that the three Persons of the Godhead were just different manifestations of God at different times. The term "Trinity" is not actually in the Bible but the idea is clearly seen many times throughout Scripture so logically we can deduce His Triune nature. This is an analogy that can help in thinking about the Trinity, although it is not a perfect analogy.

Explanation: Time

Past	Present	Future
Father	Son	Holy Spirit

Any given point in time can be, is, or was all three (past, present, and future) but each is never all three at the same time. Yet all forms of time itself (past, present, and future) exist at the same time. Similarly, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not the same person but they are all the same God.



More than 60 Bible passages mention the three Persons together, early church leaders taught the Trinity & it's also defended in non-biblical texts:

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

-Mat 3:16-17

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

-1Pe 1:1-2

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-2Cr 13:14

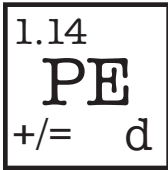
Teachers of the Trinity

The 12 Apostles, in the "Didache"
Clement, 3rd bishop of Rome
Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch
And many others...

AD 90-100
AD 96
AD 90?

Resources

1. <http://seanmcdowell.org/blog/the-trinity-solves-the-first-philosophical-question-about-reality>
2. <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2012/07/11/using-a-diagram-to-illustrate-trinitarian-relationships/>
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/12/09/jesus-divine-incarnation/>
4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/10/17/defending-the-trinity/>
5. <https://carm.org/questions-about-god>
6. <https://carm.org/questions-about-jesus>
7. <https://carm.org/questions-about-holy-spirit>



Personal Experience

Historical Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



The cause of the universe cannot be a natural one as natural laws would not have existed apart from space and time. Abstract objects like numbers have no causal power so they can also be ruled out. The last option is a Personal God - an external, transcendent, unembodied mind which has freedom of will which is exactly how the Bible repeatedly describes God as being. (1) To know, see, hear or feel someone is to experience that person in a personal way which is what God allows us to do if we accept Jesus as the Lord of our lives. Without a personal relationship with God through the acceptance of Jesus Christ, receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, one can easily confuse demons with angels. This is quite possibly how many practitioners of other religions or cults that have apparent supernatural experiences are fooled into believing these falsehoods. ([Mi] The Miracles Argument)

A skeptic's view of multiple religions personal experiences:

1. Practitioners of all types of religions report supernatural experiences
2. These different religions teach contradictory beliefs and thus cannot all be true
3. Therefore, it is likely all supernatural experiences are not true but figments of the imagination

A Christian view of multiple religions personal experiences:

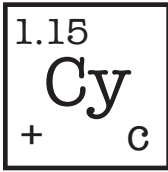
1. Practitioners of all types of religions report supernatural experiences
2. The Bible teaches that besides supernatural forces of good, supernatural forces of evil exist which are masters of deception and that man's fallen nature apart from God is bent towards evil and sin
3. Therefore, it is likely that all supernatural experiences prove the supernatural exists in both good and evil forms

This is why God also provides us with the Bible and a multitude of other evidences in the world that point to the God of the Bible. Ironically, while evidence and arguments for God, Jesus and the Bible are important for us to know the truth, focussing too much on them could actually distract one from a close(r) relationship with God, so we as Christians need to be careful and find a healthy balance. C.S. Lewis put it like this in his book, The Great Divorce; "There have been men before now who got so interested in proving the existence of God that they came to care nothing for God Himself ... as if the good Lord had nothing to do but exist! There have been some who were so occupied in spreading Christianity that they never gave a thought to Christ."

Personal experience is often rejected as a formal apologetic but can often be quite powerful in personal evangelism.

Resources

1. <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/question-answer/P20/personal-god>
2. <https://theogetics315.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/my-salvation-testimony3.pdf>
3. <https://theogetics315.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/my-testimony.pdf>



The Contingency Argument

Scientific Evidence

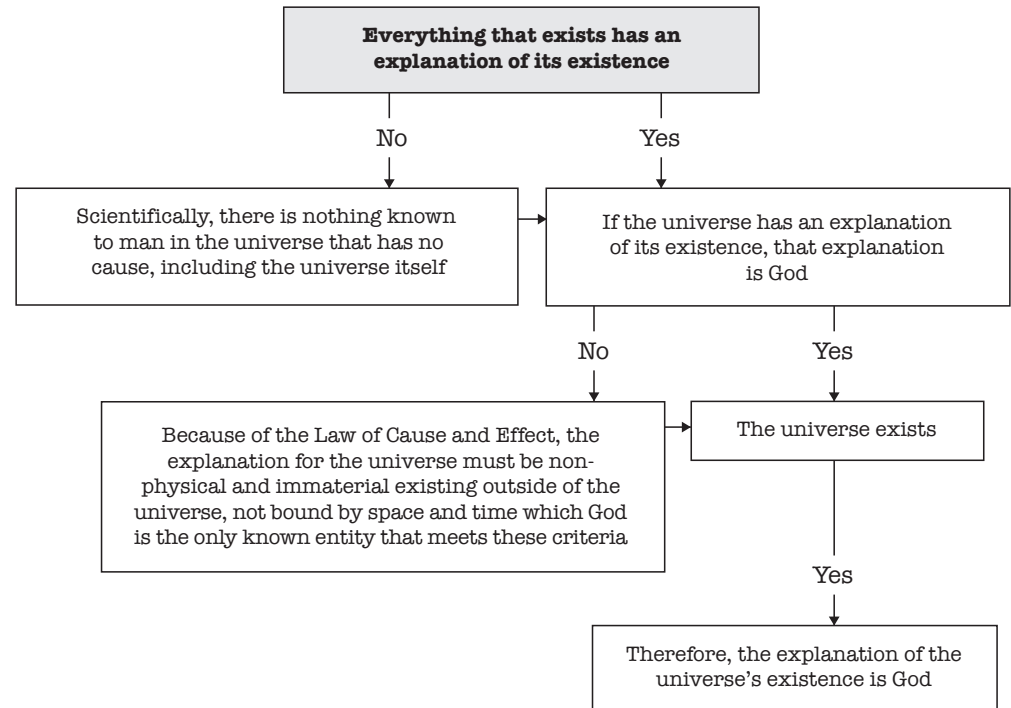
Analysis

Basic Outline

1. Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence.
2. If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.
3. The universe exists.
4. Therefore, the explanation of the universe's existence is God.

Additional Outline

1. If something exists, there must exist what it takes for that thing to exist.
2. Reality—the collection of beings in space and time—exists.
3. Therefore, there must exist what it takes for reality to exist.
4. What it takes for reality to exist cannot exist within the universe or be bounded by space and time.
5. Therefore, what it takes for reality to exist must transcend both space and time.



Related Information

Why is there something rather than nothing? It is more logical to conclude a necessary being exists and created the universe than to conclude the universe created itself or has always existed, as the latter are shown to be scientifically impossible.

Resources

1. <http://strangenotions.com/the-contingency-argument-for-god/>

1.16
Ab
+ b

The Abundance of Arguments Argument

Mathematical Evidence

Analysis

Basic Outline

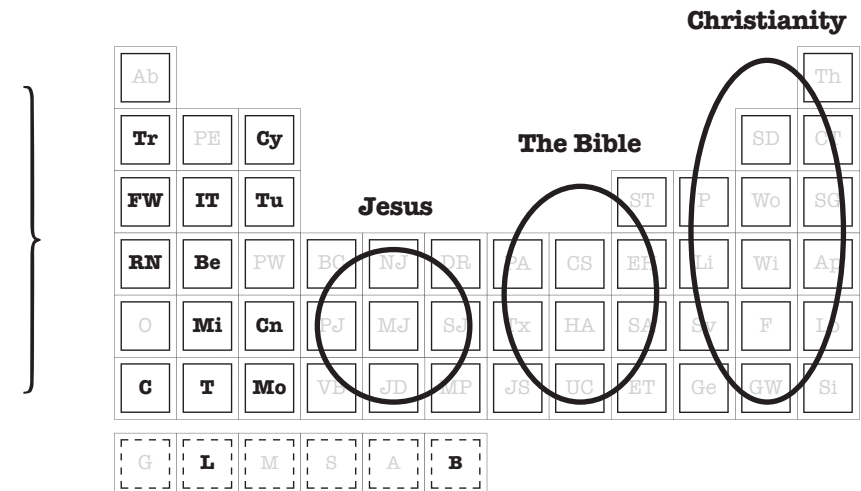
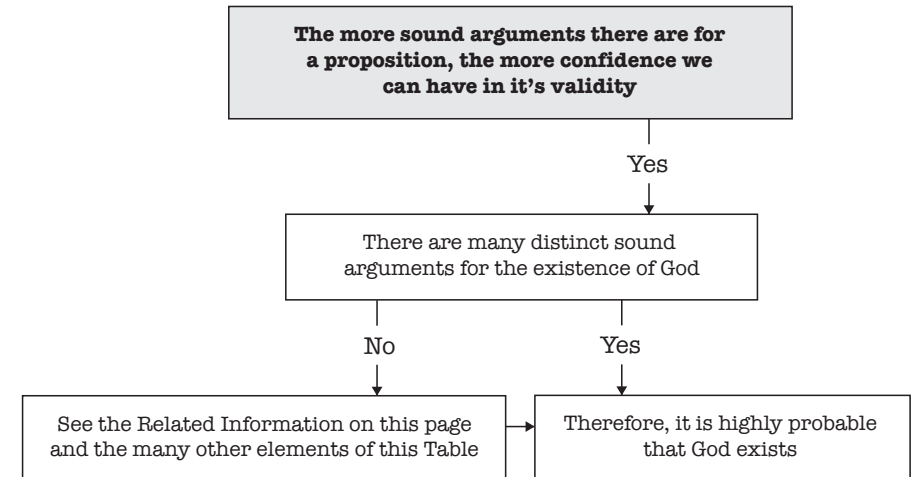
1. The more sound arguments there are for a proposition, the more confidence we can have in it's validity.
2. There are many distinct sound arguments for the existence of God.
3. Therefore, it is highly probable that God exists.

Related Information

Even science is possible by the accumulation of evidence; each piece by itself may be inconclusive but the pieces as a whole provide assurance of a proposition. There are 16 basic arguments for the existence of God outlined in this Table alone as well as three additional categories that provide evidence for the Biblical God's existence. The following are the entities which require God to exist and the arguments that prove this; **1. Logic** (The Transcendental Argument), **2. The Universe** (The Cosmological Argument), **3. Order** (The Teleological Argument), **4. Morals** (The Moral Argument), **5. Miracles** (The Miracles Argument), **6. Consciousness** (The Consciousness Argument), **7. Joy** (The Religious Need Argument), **8. Beauty** (The Beauty Argument), **9. Free Will** (The Free Will Argument), **10. Information** (Information Theory), **11. Truth** (The Truth Argument), **12. Love, Unity and Diversity** (The Trinity), **13. Reality** (The Contingency Argument), **14. Jesus** (Fulfilled Messianic Prophecy and other aspects of Jesus), **15. The Bible** (Unity and Consistency, Prophetic Accuracy, and other elements of Scripture) and **16. Christianity** (the balance of the Christian life). There are other elements in this Table that show things like; why belief in God is the most logical belief to have, that belief in God is the stance anyone can be the most certain is true, that other contrary beliefs are more likely to be false, and that the Christian worldview is the most consistent with logic, science, archaeology and reality compared to other belief systems and philosophies.

Resources

1. www.TheoLogetics.org



The abundance of arguments argument is obviously not limited to arguments for God but apply towards Jesus being God, The Bible being the inspired Word of God and Christianity being the most logical worldview.

2. JESUS

This is the 2nd Basic Element section of the Table about Jesus who Christians believe is God incarnate. There are 9 elements in this section which are;

2.1 The Virgin Birth

2.2 Jesus's Claim of Deity

2.3 Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled

2.4 The Prophecies of Jesus

2.5 The Miracles of Jesus

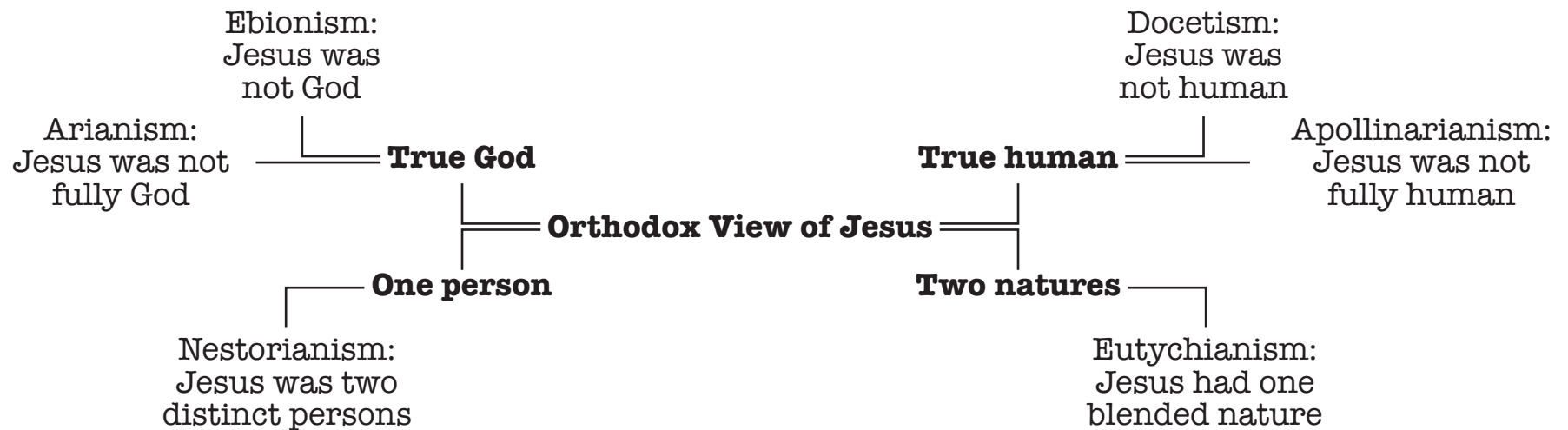
2.6 The Sinless Life of Jesus

2.7 Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity

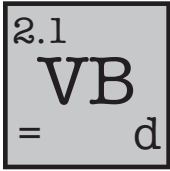
2.8 Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus

2.9 The Death and Resurrection of Christ

Christians believe Jesus was truly God, truly human, and one person with two natures. There are six basic heresies regarding the person of Jesus Christ which are as follows;



The concept of Jesus being 100% man and 100% God seems somewhat illogical. To better understand this, consider light. According to Quantum mechanics, light behaves as both a particle and a wave simultaneously. This idea goes completely against our understanding of known physical laws but it has been observed and tested over and over again by scientists and the results are always the same; light is both a particle and a wave. This duality is possible because the Newtonian laws of physics break down on atomic and subatomic levels. So in a similar way, Jesus being more than a physical man would have been operating on a different level as well - metaphorically, spiritually, and physically.



The Virgin Birth

Historical Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Explanation of the hypostatic union and the importance of the virgin birth as needed to show Christ's deity **b.** Extra-Biblical evidence of the virgin birth

The hypostatic union is the combination of divine and human natures in the single person of Jesus Christ. The virgin birth of Jesus is one of the main tenets of the Christian faith. This miraculous event is recorded in Scripture. Had Jesus not been born of the virgin Mary, He wouldn't have been the proper sacrifice for our sins. He would have been born into sin and therefore would have sinned. According to the Old Testament, the sacrifice for sin had to be spotless and without blemish. Regarding Jesus, this doesn't mean spotless physically. This means that He was without sin. His blood did not carry the sin trait that was borne to the rest of us from Adam.

Jesus was unique in that His father was God. Although the Bible calls the nation of Israel the child of God in the Old Testament (Exodus 4:22, Deuteronomy 14:1) and those that place their faith in Jesus are His children (Romans 8:16-17) under the New Covenant, only Jesus is called the "only begotten". Jesus is God's only son in the same way God called Isaac Abraham's only son (Genesis 22:2) even though Abraham had another son (Ishmael) prior to Isaac. The Greek word for "only begotten" is *monogenēs* (μονογενής) which literally means "one of a kind" or "the only of its kind." If Jesus was born of Joseph and Mary, He could not have been the only begotten son.

As C.S. Lewis says, "Now if we had not fallen, that would all be plain sailing. But unfortunately we now need God's help in order to do something which God, in His own nature, never does at all – to surrender, to suffer, to submit, to die. Nothing in God's nature corresponds to this process at all. So that the one road for which we now need God's leadership most of all is a road God, in His own nature, has never walked. God can share only what He has: this thing, in His own nature, He has not.

But supposing God became a man – suppose our human nature which can suffer and die was amalgamated with God's nature in one person – then that person could help us. He could surrender His will, and suffer and die, because He was man; and He could do it perfectly because He was God. You and I can go through this process only if God does it in us; but God can do it only if He becomes man. Our attempts at this dying will succeed only if we men share in God's dying, just as our thinking can succeed only because it is a drop out of the ocean of His intelligence: but we cannot share God's dying unless God dies; and he cannot die except by being a man. That is the sense in which He pays our debt, and suffers for us what He Himself need not suffer at all."

There were passing references about Jesus being born of a virgin in the Talmud (and by Celsus), even though they were made tongue in cheek, calling Jesus the son of someone, at times a Roman soldier; Pandera/Panthera. In Greek, the term for virgin is *parthenos*, which is similar to *panthera*, implying that "son of panthera" is a pun on "son of a virgin". The name "Son of Panthera" was a tradition, recognized by scholars as an attack on the Christian view of Jesus being the son of a virgin which gives credibility to Jesus' virgin conception believed by ancient Christians. (3)(4)

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/the-virgin-birth/>
2. C.S. Lewis
3. Dr. Craig Blomberg, Historical Reliability of the Gospels, Non-Christian Evidence for Jesus
4. <https://theologetics315.wordpress.com/2017/11/12/the-virgin-birth/>



Jesus's Claim of Deity

Historical Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Jesus could not have just been a good moral teacher **b.** Examples of Jesus being God from Scripture

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” C.S. Lewis (1)

There are two other options which some critics may bring up; Lama and Legend. Upon further investigation of the evidence, these two options are not viable. Lama refers to Christ being a mystic or spiritual teacher who did not really claim to be God. Legend refers to the stories of Christ being embellished and changed over time to make Him appear to be something other than human. The options “Liar, Lunatic or Legend” are easily dismissed when all the evidence is reviewed (see the other elements for Jesus 2.1-2.6 as well as the elements for The Bible 3.1-3.10). The option “Lama” would mean Jesus never claimed to be God but the following are clear examples found in Scripture of Jesus doing just that through His words or actions:

Jesus verbally claimed to be God - John 8:58, John 10:30, John 14:9, Mark 14:60-64, (He called Himself the “Son of Man” around 80 times in the New Testament Gospels which is a reference to Daniel 7:13-14 about being God while also referencing His human nature)

Jesus was called God by others without correcting them - John 10:33, John 20:28

Jesus accepted worship - Matthew 2:11, Matthew 14:33, Matthew 28:9 & 17, Luke 24:52, John 9:38

Jesus forgave sins and defined the law - Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:20-24, Mark 2:28

Jesus healed by His own power and authority - Matthew 8:7, Mark 1:34, Luke 6:19, John 7:23, John 9:14

Resources

1. Lewis, C.S., Mere Christianity, London: Collins, 1952. 54-56.
2. <http://www.evidenceunseen.com/theology/lord-liar-lunatic-or-legend/>
3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/is-Jesus-God.html>



Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled

Mathematical Evidence

Analysis

Overview a. Argument based on Biblical prophecy **b.** The odds of prophecies about Jesus coming true on their own **c.** Example of Messianic prophecy

The Old Testament was written hundreds of years before the New Testament.

The Old Testament contains at least 191 Messianic prophecies.

Jesus fulfilled these prophecies as recorded in the New Testament.

Therefore, God exists, Jesus is revealed to be God in the New Testament, and the Bible is Divinely inspired.

Dan Story, in his book, *The Christian Combat Manual*, discusses Peter Stoner and Robert Newman's statistical analysis of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled. Of the (at least) 191 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, the odds of any mere man fulfilling only eight of them from the time of the prophecies to the present day would have been one in 10^{17} power. An illustration given by them to demonstrate these odds is as follows:

Suppose we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom. (1)(2)

One of the most well known and detailed Messianic prophecies is found in Isaiah 53, written around 700 years before Jesus fulfilled it:

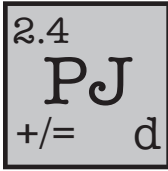
4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
8 By oppression and judgment he was taken
away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was
punished.
9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.
10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and
cause him to suffer,

and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.
11 After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify
many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Resources

1. Robert C. Newman and Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks; Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1976), 106-107
2. Dan Story, *The Christian Combat Manual* (AMG Publishers, 2007), 50-56
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/10/13/christ-fulfills-prophecies/>
4. <https://chab123.wordpress.com/2017/10/12/are-there-over-300-messianic-prophecies-4/>
5. <http://www.accordingtothescriptures.org/prophecy/353prophecies.html>



The Prophecies of Jesus

Historical Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Prophecies of Jesus **b.** The supernatural knowledge of Jesus

Author Don Stewart lists 17 predictions made by Jesus that were fulfilled as He said they would be. This list may not be an exhaustive one but at the very least it is a list of the main predictions made by Jesus as a prophet. (1)

Prediction 1: His Words Would Be Everlasting (Matthew 24:35)

Prediction 2: The Story Of Mary Of Bethany (Matthew 26:11-13)

Prediction 3: His Own Betrayal By One Of His Disciples (Matthew 26:21, 22) (Luke 22:47,48)

Prediction 4: All Of His Disciples Would Leave Him (Matthew 26:31,32, 56)

Prediction 5: Peter Would Deny Him Three Times (Matthew 26:33,34, 74, 75)

Prediction 6: He Would Suffer Because Of The Religious Rulers (Matthew 16:21) (Luke 22:63-65)

Prediction 7: He Would Die In Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21) (Mark 15:40,41)

Prediction 8: He Would Die By Crucifixion (Matthew 26:2) (Mark 15:26,27)

Prediction 9: He Would Die During The Passover (Matthew 26:2) (John 19:14-16)

Prediction 10: His Resurrection From The Dead On The Third Day (John 2:18-22) (Matthew 16:21, 27:62,63, 28:6)

Prediction 11: The Coming Of The Holy Spirit (John 14:26) (Acts 2:1-4)

Prediction 12: The Destruction Of The City Of Jerusalem Within One Generation (Luke 19:43,44, 21:20) (Matthew 24:34)

Prediction 13: The Temple In Jerusalem Would Be Destroyed (Matthew 24:1,2, 34)

Prediction 14: The People Would Be Scattered (Luke 21:24)

Prediction 15: The Holy Land Would Be Ruled By Gentiles (Luke 21:24)

Prediction 16: The Jewish People Would Be Persecuted (Luke 23:28-30)

Prediction 17: Though Persecuted, The Nation Will Survive (Luke 21:24)

Similar to predicting future events before they happened, there were many times the Gospels recorded Jesus supernaturally having knowledge that a normal person would not have had. Such instances include knowing the Samaritan woman at the well was previously married 5 times (John 4), telling Simon he would find money to pay their temple taxes in a fish's mouth (Matthew 17:24-27), knowing Lazarus had died in another town (John 11:11-14) and many others.

Resources

1. https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_1349.cfm



The Miracles of Jesus

Historical Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Some non-Biblical ancient references of Jesus' miracles **b.** List of the miracles of Jesus

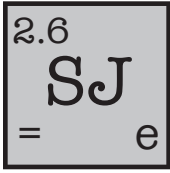
The Talmud refers to Jesus multiple times as a sorcerer instead of denying the things Jesus reportedly did in the Bible. Also, Josephus references Jesus' miracles in his writings, while some parts of Josephus' testimony are in question, various other translations of his writings still state Jesus "wrought surprising feats".

The New Testament records various miracles of Jesus, the following is a list of these miracles;

1. Born to a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38)
2. Changing water into wine (John 2:1-11)
3. Healing of the royal official's son (John 4:46-54)
4. Healing of the Capernaum demoniac (Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:33-37)
5. Healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39)
6. Healing the sick during the evening (Matt 8:16, Mark 1:32, Luke 4:40)
7. Catching a large number of fish (Luke 5:3-10)
8. Healing a leper (Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-15)
9. Miracle of healing a centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10)
10. Healing a paralyzed man (Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:18-26)
11. Healing a withered hand (Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-10)
12. Raising a widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)
13. Calming the storm (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25)
14. Healing the Gerasene man possessed by demons (Matthew 8:28-32, Mark 5:1-13, Luke 8:26-33)
15. Healing a woman with internal bleeding (Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48)
16. Raising Jairus' daughter (Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:41-42, 49-56)
17. Healing two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31)
18. Healing a mute demon-possessed man (Matthew 9:32-33)
19. Healing a 38 year invalid (John 5:1-17)
20. Feeding 5,000 men and their families (Matthew 14:16-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:5-14)
21. Walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21)
22. Miraculous healing of many people in Gennesaret (Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56)
23. Healing a girl possessed by a demon (Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30)
24. Healing a deaf man with a speech impediment (Mark 7:31-37)
25. Feeding the 4,000 men and their families (Matthew 15:29-39, Mark 8:1-10)
26. Healing a blind man (Mark 8:22-26)
27. Healing a man born blind (John 9:1-41)
28. Healing a demon-possessed boy (Matthew 17:14-20, Mark 9:17-29, Luke 9:37-43)
29. Catching a fish with a coin in its mouth (Matthew 17:24-27)
30. Healing a blind and mute man who was demon-possessed (Matthew 12:22-23, Luke 11:14)
31. Healing a woman with an 18-year infirmity (Luke 13:10-13)
32. Healing a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)
33. Healing 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
34. Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)
35. Healing Bartimaeus of blindness (Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43)
36. Jesus curses the fig tree with no fruit (Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-25)
37. Restoring a severed ear (Luke 22:45-54)
38. The resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15, Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20)
39. Catching 153 fish (John 21:4-11)
40. The ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:1-11)

Resources

1. The Jewish Talmud and Flavius Josephus
2. The Bible



The Sinless Life of Jesus

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Jesus is recorded in the New Testament as being without sin **b.** Jesus could not be found guilty by those who opposed Him or when put on trial

If Jesus was really God incarnate, we would expect Him to be fully holy and without sin, not only as proof that He was God but so He could be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. The Bible describes how Jesus was humanity's sacrifice (Hebrews 7:27; 10:10) and the following are multiple verses that discuss Jesus being without sin:

1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 John 3:5 You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Romans 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

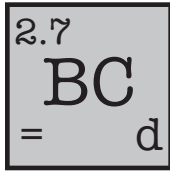
Hebrews 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

The Sadducees and Pharisees, who the Gospels record trying to catch Jesus breaking Jewish law on various occasions could never actually do so. Also Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23:13-24 and John 18:28-40 describe the trial of Jesus the final hours before He was crucified. Despite many of His own people being set against Jesus, Pontius Pilate found Jesus innocent of the charges brought against Him. "And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him." and "When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." Luke also records that Herod, the king of the Jews, also found Jesus innocent of the charges brought against Him "“You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.”.

Resources

1. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/Jesus-sinless.html>
2. <https://www.wake-up.org/bible-characters/pilates-judgement-of-jesus.html>



Biblical Accounts of Christ's Deity

Historical Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. New Testament descriptions of Jesus as Messiah, King, Lord and God

While Jesus Himself made various claims pertaining to His divine nature, there are various times in Scripture where Jesus is referred to by others as being One with God and divine.

"Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ," (2 Peter 1:1)

"for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.," (2 Peter 1:11)

"For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first," (2 Peter 2:20)

"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen," (2 Peter 3:18)

"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus," (Titus 2:13)

"who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds," (Titus 2:14)

Jesus' disciples called Him Son of God: Matthew 14:33, Matthew 16:16, Luke 9:20, Matthew 27:39-40, Matthew 27:43, Matthew 27:54, John 1:49, John 3:16, John 6:69

John the Baptist called Him Son of God: John 1:34, 3:35-36,

Impure Spirits call Him Son of God: Mark 1:23-26, Luke 4:34, Mark 3:11-12, Luke 4:41, Matthew 8:29, Mark 5: 6-7

God the Father calls Jesus Son: Matthew 3:17, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22, Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35

Jesus is referred to as "God over all", "The Word was God" among many other examples...

Resources

1. <http://traviscarden.com/deity-of-christ-verse-list>
2. <https://carm.org/bible-verses-show-jesus-divine>
3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/divinity-of-Christ.html>
4. <https://answersingenesis.org/jesus-christ/jesus-is-god/divinity-jesus-revealed-new-testament/>
5. <https://carm.org/does-the-bible-ever-refer-to-jesus-as-god>



Non-Biblical Accounts of Jesus

Historical Evidence

Analysis



Overview a. Examples of extra-Biblical, ancient references to Jesus **b.** 12 historical facts about Jesus that most critical scholars believe

It's reported there are at least 45 ancient non-Biblical sources regarding the life of Jesus Christ according to New Testament Historian Gary Habermas. (1) A list of some of these extra-Biblical sources for the historical Jesus which include Jewish sources, Roman sources, Gnostic sources, Non-Biblical Christian sources and Pre-New Testament sources (some hypothetical but almost unanimously accepted by scholars) (2) are listed as follows:

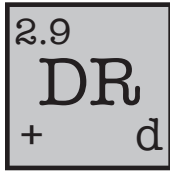
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Josephus Flavius (95 AD) | 12. Luke' Unique Material, L (40-70 AD) | 23. Toledoth Jesu (5th century AD) |
| 2. The Jewish Talmud (70-200 AD; 400-700 AD) | 13. Mathews Unique Material, M (30-50 AD) | 24. The Apocryphon of John (120-130 AD) |
| 3. Historian Cornelius Tacitus (116 AD) | 14. Pre-Markan Passion Narrative (33 AD +) | 25. The Gospel of Thomas (140-200 AD) |
| 4. Historian Gaius Suetonius (121 AD) | 15. Pre-John Signs Gospel (prior to 95 AD) | 26. The Treatise On Resurrection (late 2nd century AD) |
| 5. Philosopher Mara Serapion (73-200 AD) | 16. Creeds (35 AD) | 27. Acts of Pontius Pilate (lost work reported ca. 150 AD & ca. 200 AD) |
| 6. Governor Pliny the Younger (112 AD) | 17. Thallus (50 AD) | 28. Justin Martyr (ca. 150 AD) |
| 7. The Gospel of Truth (135-160 AD; 2nd - 4th centuries) | 18. Phlegon (lost work 140 AD) | 29. Tertullian (ca. 200 AD) |
| 8. The Gospel of Thomas (+ 110-180 AD) | 19. Lucian of Samosata (120-180 AD) | 30. Origen of Alexandria (185-254 AD) |
| 9. Clement of Rome (95-97 AD) | 20. The Didache (65-80 AD) | 31. Julius Africanus (c. 160 - c. 240 AD) |
| 10. Ignatius of Antioch (110 AD +) | 21. Celsus (177-178 AD) | |
| 11. Hypothetical Q (40-70 AD) | 22. Emperor Trajan (117-138 AD) | |

"In The Case for the Real Jesus by Lee Strobel (p. 112), Mike Licona said, "[Gary] Habermas has compiled a list of more than 2,200 sources in French, German, and English in which experts have written on the resurrection from 1975 to the present. He has identified minimal facts that are strongly evidenced and which are regarded as historical by a large majority of scholars, including skeptics." These are 12 historical facts about Jesus that most critical scholars believe.

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried.
3. His death caused the disciples to despair and lose hope.
4. The tomb was empty (the most contested).
5. The disciples had experiences which they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus (the most important proof).
6. The disciples were transformed from doubters to bold proclaimers.
7. The resurrection was the central message.
8. They preached the message of Jesus' resurrection in Jerusalem.
9. The Church was born and grew.
10. Orthodox Jews who believed in Christ made Sunday their primary day of worship.
11. James was converted to the faith when he saw the resurrected Jesus (James was a family skeptic).
12. Paul was converted to the faith (Paul was an outsider skeptic). (1)

Resources

1. <http://www3.telus.net/trbrooks/garyhabermas.htm>
2. <http://reasonsforjesus.com/a-list-of-extra-biblical-sources-for-the-historical-jesus/>
3. <https://winteryknight.com/2016/05/22/what-do-ancient-non-christian-sources-tell-us-about-the-historical-jesus-3/>
4. Dan Story, The Christian Combat Manual (AMG Publishers, 2007), 172-181
5. <http://www.garyhabermas.com/books/historicaljesus/historicaljesus.htm#ch9>



The Death and Resurrection of Christ

Historical Evidence

[Table] 36

Analysis



Overview a. Basic, agreed upon truths of Jesus' crucifixion

The crucifixion of Jesus is one of the best attested events in the ancient world.

Three truths even critical scholars admit (1):

1. The tomb in which Jesus was buried was discovered empty by a group of women on the Sunday following the crucifixion.
The resurrection was preached in the same city where Jesus had been buried shortly before.
The earliest Jewish arguments against Christianity admit the empty tomb.
The empty tomb account in the gospel of Mark is based upon a source that originated within seven years of the event.
The empty tomb is supported by the historical reliability of the burial story.
Jesus' tomb was never venerated as a shrine.
Mark's account of the empty tomb is simple and shows no signs of legendary development.
The tomb was discovered empty by women, whose testimony at the time would have been considered worthless.
All other theories that attempt to explain how the tomb was empty are not plausible explanations.
2. Jesus' disciples had real experiences with one whom they believed was the risen Christ.
There was no motive for the disciples to lie and many were persecuted and died because of their testimony.
Mass hallucination does not explain the physical nature of the appearances, is highly unlikely and cannot explain Paul's later conversion.
3. As a result of the preaching of these disciples, which had the resurrection at its center, the Christian church was established and grew.

Using only basic, agreed upon truths of Jesus' crucifixion combine to show the most logical explanation for the accounts of Jesus' resurrection was that Jesus really did rise from the dead as He claimed He would.

Resources

1. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection>
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/22/the-historicity-of-jesus-the-resurrection/>
3. <https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/april-2011/the-resurrection-myth-or-history/>
4. <https://corechristianity.com/resource-library/articles/3-ways-science-supports-the-miracle-of-the-resurrection>
5. <https://crossexamined.org/10-reasons-accept-resurrection-jesus-historical-fact/>

3. THE BIBLE

This is the 3rd Basic Element section of the Table about the 66 books and letters that make up what we call the Bible today. There are 10 elements in this section which are;

- 3.1** Jesus’s Stance on Scripture
- 3.2** Unity and Consistency of Scripture
- 3.3** Eyewitness Testimony of Scripture
- 3.4** Textual Reliability of Scripture
- 3.5** Historical Accuracy of Scripture
- 3.6** Scientific Accuracy of Scripture
- 3.7** Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture
- 3.8** The Canon of Scripture
- 3.9** Exegesis and Hermeneutics
- 3.10** Shadows of Christ and Typology

Below is some informatin about each of the writings that make up the Bible.

Writings	Type	Author	Date Written
Genesis	Historical Narrative	Moses	1446-1406 BC
Exodus	Israelites’ Deliverance	Moses	1446-1406 BC
Leviticus	Law & Sacrifice	Moses	1446-1406 BC
Numbers	Census & History	Moses	1446-1406 BC
Deuteronomy	Sermons	Moses	c. 1406 BC
Joshua	History of Conquest	Unknown, partially Joshua*	c. 1390 BC
Judges	History Before Kings	Unknown, partially Samuel*	c. 1000 BC
Ruth	Story of Faithful Foreigner	Unknown	c. 1010 BC
1 Samuel	History	Unknown	c. 930 BC
2 Samuel	History	Unknown	c. 930 BC
1 Kings	Evaluation of the Kings	Unknown	c. 550 BC
2 Kings	Evaluation of the Kings	Unknown	c. 550 BC
1 Chronicles	Account of David’s Reign	Unknown/Ezra	450-400 BC
2 Chronicles	Highlights of Judah’s Kings	Unknown/Ezra	After 440 BC
Ezra	History of Reconstruction	Ezra	After 440 BC
Nehemiah	History of Reconstruction	Unknown/Ezra/Nehemiah	After 440 BC
Esther	Story of Redemption	Unknown	After 460 BC
Job	Story of Perseverance	Unknown	2000-1000 BC*
Psalms	Poetry & Songs	David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, Solomon, Heman, Ethan, Moses, & Unknown	1440-after 538 BC
Proverbs	Wisdom	King Solomon, Agur, Lemuel & other wise men	Primarily 970-930 BC
Ecclesiastes	Wisdom	Unknown/King Solomon	As early as 900s BC*
Song of Songs	Allegorical Love Poem	Unknown/King Solomon	As early as 900s BC*
Isaiah	Prophecy & Judgement	Isaiah	740-680 BC
Jeremiah	Prophecy & Judgement	Jeremiah	626-586 BC
Lamentations	Dirge Poem (Lament)	Probably Jeremiah	Just after 586 BC
Ezekiel	Prophecy & Warning	Ezekiel	593-571 BC
Daniel	Prophecy & Apocalyptic	Daniel	605-530 BC
Hosea	Prophecy & Warning	Hosea	Probably 722-721 BC
Joel	Prophecy & Judgment	Joel	600s-400s BC*
Amos	Prophecy & Judgment	Amos	760-750 BC
Obadiah	Prophecy	Obadiah	605-586 BC
Jonah	Story of God’s Mercy	Unknown	722-721 BC*
Micah	Prophecy & Judgment	Micah	700-650 BC
Nahum	Prophecy & Judgment	Nahum	Shortly before 612 BC
Habakkuk	Prophecy & Judgment	Habakkuk	About 605 BC
Zephaniah	Prophecy & Judgment	Zephaniah	640-609 BC
Haggai	Prophecy & Hope	Haggai	520 BC
Zechariah	Prophecy & Hope	Zechariah	520-480 BC
Malachi	Prophecy & Judgment	Malachi	430 BC

*This indicates a speculative author or date.

Writings	Type	Author	Date Written
Matthew	Gospel	Matthew also called Levi	AD 50-70
Mark	Gospel	John Mark	Mid 50s to late 60s AD
Luke	Gospel	Luke	AD 60-80
John	Gospel	The apostle John	AD 50-85
Acts	History of the Early Church	Luke	AD 63 or later
Romans	Letter	The apostle Paul	About AD 57
1 Corinthians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 55
2 Corinthians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 55
Galatians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 48-59
Ephesians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 60
Philippians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 61
Colossians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 60
1 Thessalonians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 51
2 Thessalonians	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 51 or 52
1 Timothy	Letter	The apostle Paul	About AD 64
2 Timothy	Letter	The apostle Paul	About AD 66-67
Titus	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 63-65
Philemon	Letter	The apostle Paul	AD 60
Hebrews	Letter	Unknown/Paul/Apollos/Barnabas	AD 67-70
James	Letter	James	Possibly before AD 50
1 Peter	Letter	The apostle Peter	About AD 60-64
2 Peter	Letter	The apostle Peter	AD 65-68
1 John	Letter	The apostle John	AD 85-95
2 John	Letter	The apostle John	AD 85-95
3 John	Letter	The apostle John	AD 85-95
Jude	Letter	Most likely Jude	AD 65-80
Revelation	Letter & Apocalyptic	The apostle John	About AD c. 95



Jesus's Stance on Scripture

Historical Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Argument using Jesus to support the authority of the OT and the NT **b.** Examples of references Jesus made to historical Old Testament events

1. Jesus can be shown to be God incarnate.
2. There is substantial documentation that Jesus believed the Old Testament to be true, literal when written literally, and God's Word.
3. Therefore, since the ultimate authority of Jesus can be proven, the ultimate authority of the Old Testament is proven as well.
4. The New Testament is comprised of first-hand accounts of Jesus' life and the lives of those who knew Jesus and spread His teachings.
5. The New Testament can be shown to be historically accurate.
6. Therefore, the New Testament can also be shown to be authoritative and inspired by God.

If Jesus is God and the ultimate source of knowledge, taking His Word as truth is not an Appeal to Authority fallacy or a Circular Reasoning fallacy. The following are examples of references Jesus made about historical Old Testament events;

God's recent Creation (Mark 10:6-9)

Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4-5)

Cain's murder of Abel (Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51)

Noah's Ark (Luke 17:26)

God's judgment on the world by a global Flood (Matthew 24:37-39)

Abraham (John 8:56-58)

Lot (Luke 17:28)

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire (Luke 17:29)

Lot's wife turned to salt (Luke 17:32)

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—not only historical people but still living in Jesus' day (Matthew 22:32; see John 4:12)

God spoke to Moses in a burning bush (Mark 12:26)

God fed Israel with manna in the wilderness (John 6:32)

Moses' authorship of Genesis (Luke 24:27; John 5:46-47)

Moses' brass serpent healed Hebrew believers of snake bites (John 3:14)

David's great deeds (Matthew 12:3; Mark 2:25; Luke 6:3)

David's authorship of psalms (Matthew 22:42-45; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:42-44)

King Solomon's glorious rule (Matthew 12:42)

Elijah's and Elisha's unique miracles (Luke 4:25-27)

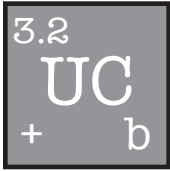
God delivered Jonah from a great fish (Matthew 12:39-40)

Isaiah's authorship of the prophetic book bearing his name (Matthew 13:14 citing Isaiah 6:9-10 and John 12:38 citing Isaiah 53:1)

Daniel's authorship of the prophetic book bearing his name (Matthew 24:15)

Resources

1. <https://answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/jesus-believed-every-event-of-the-old-testament/>



Unity and Consistency of Scripture

Mathematical Evidence

Analysis



Overview a. The 9 main challenges of Biblical unity **b.** Despite apparent contradictions, contextually there are none

Even though the Bible is made up of various manuscripts, the unity and consistency of the Bible is miraculous! Consider the following information comprised by Josh McDowell in his book “Evidence That Demands A Verdict”.

1. Written over a 1,500 year span.
 2. Written over 40 generations.
 3. Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.
 4. Written in different places: the wilderness, in a dungeon, on a hillside, in a palace, while traveling, on the Isle of Patmos, in the rigors of a military campaign.
 5. Written at different times: in times of war and in times of peace.
 6. Written during different moods: some writing from the heights of joy and others writing from the depths of sorrow and despair.
 7. Written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.
 8. Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
 9. Biblical authors spoke on hundreds of controversial subjects with harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation.
- There is one unfolding story; “God’s redemption of man.”

There are various apparent contradictions in the Bible, some anti-Christian websites are devoted to pointing them out. However, when each verse is considered in context, there stands no contradiction. It would be even more unlikely for us, who live thousands of years after the books of the Bible were written, to have no misunderstandings since our cultures would be so different. Good books that explain hard to understand Bible passages and supposed contradictions are “Keeping Faith in the Age of Reason; Refuting Alleged Bible Contradictions”, by Dr. Jason Lisle and “Hard Sayings of the Bible” by Walter C. Kaiser Jr., Peter H. Davids, F. F. Bruce and Manfred T. Brauch.

Resources

1. Dan Story, The Christian Combat Manual (AMG Publishers, 2007), 24-26
2. Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict (San Bernardino: Here’s Life Publishers, Inc., 1979), 16
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/10/17/on-inerrancy-and-inspiration/>
4. <https://carm.org/what-canon>



Overview a. Importance of eyewitness testimony **b.** Four principles for determining reliable witnesses **c.** Hostile witnesses

Primary-source is the authentication of major events by eyewitnesses or by those who were directly associated with eye-witnesses. The New Testament, specifically the Gospels, were made up of eyewitness testimony. Parts of the Old Testament were also comprised of eyewitness testimony while other parts would certainly have been written later after the events had taken place, relying on possible previous documents or oral tradition before recording them.

Legally, eyewitness testimony is very important. Cases can be won or lost based solely on an eyewitness account.

J. Warner Wallace outlines four principles for determining reliable witnesses found in his book *Cold Case Christianity*. (1) The four principles, collaborates the claims made in the New Testament about Jesus, and these four principles are:

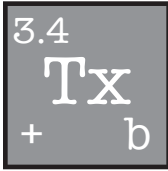
1. Make Sure the Witnesses Were Present in the First Place
2. Try to Find Some Corroboration for the Claims of the Witnesses
3. Examine the Consistency and Accuracy of the Witnesses
4. Examine the Presence of Bias on the Part of the Witnesses

The witnesses in the Gospels pass all four of these tests. Some skeptics like to point out subtle differences in the four gospels but in reality, if the witnesses stories were too close in regards to minor, secondary details, their accounts of an event would be suspect but the way the Gospels were written aligns with the writers recalling an actual event that they really witnessed.

Another type of eyewitness is the “hostile” witness; someone who would have been opposed to Christianity. The apostles had many who were opposed to their teachings and what they stood for. Author Dan Story writes, “In light of the potential for cross-examination by hostile witnesses, it’s noteworthy that not a single piece of contrary historical evidence concerning the birth, ministry, death, and postresurrection appearances of Jesus has surfaced from the first century that claims any of these events were false.” (3)

Resources

1. <http://coldcasechristianity.com/2013/unbelievable-four-simple-principles-to-determine-ancient-historical-reliability/>
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/01/07/eyewitness-testimony/>
3. Dan Story, *The Christian Combat Manual* (AMG Publishers, 2007), 27-29



Textual Reliability of Scripture

Mathematical Evidence

Analysis



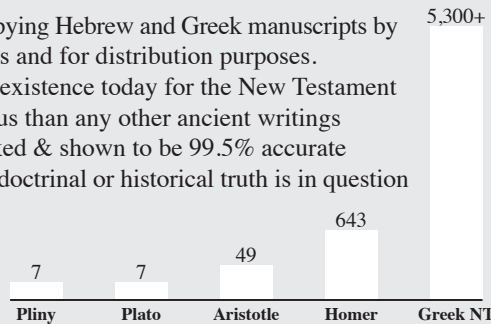
Overview a. Each verse only has one interpretation **b.** Due to Transmission and Textual Criticism, the Bible stands trustworthy **c.** Moses relied on Oral Tradition to write the Pentateuch **d.** List of sources that were used to write the Bible we have today

Each verse in the Bible may have multiple applications but NOT multiple, accurate interpretations. Written by an absolute Being with absolute meaning.

No other book or document in history has withstood such hate or attempts to eradicate it, only to have it flourish and spread all the more. It truly is the **LIVING WORD of GOD!**

Textual criticism is the process of comparing all known manuscripts to authenticate the original source.

“**Transmission**” is the ancient process of copying Hebrew and Greek manuscripts by hand to preserve them for future generations and for distribution purposes. There are over 5,300 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament. These are better-preserved & more numerous than any other ancient writings. Because of this, they have been cross checked & shown to be 99.5% accurate. Of the 0.5% in doubt (about 400 words) no doctrinal or historical truth is in question.



The Old Testament Scriptures preservation, scribes would carefully copy and recopy them through the ages. Before Moses wrote the Pentateuch, God’s people relied on Oral Tradition dating back to Adam and Eve’s time. Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, portions of almost every book in the Old Testament have been found, many dating to around 150 BC. Scholar Walter Kaiser, Jr. wrote that it is possible to say that over 90% of the Old Testament is textually sound & uniformly witnessed to by major exemplars. Of the remaining 10% of the text that exhibits any type of variation, extremely few are of such significance that they would involve any major doctrinal issue.

Resources

1. <https://carm.org/introduction-bible-difficulties-and-bible-contradictions>
2. <https://www.josh.org/8-manuscripts-validate-new-testament/>

The following are some of the most ancient and important sources used to write the Bible:

Dead Sea Scrolls: dated from 5th and 4th century B.C. Discovered between 1946 and 1956. Contains parts of all the books of the OT except Esther. Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Contains oldest complete copy of the book of Isaiah known and the most complete scroll in the collection.

Septuagint (LXX): dated 3rd century B.C. The Old Testament translated from Hebrew into Koine Greek. It’s name and abbreviation, LXX, stands for the 72 scholars that Ptolemy II delegated to translate the OT into Greek.

Papyrus Bodmer (P 75): dated to 175-225 A.D. or to the 4th century based on handwriting. Contains vast majority of Luke 3:18-24:53 and John 1-15. Text is in agreement with Codex Vaticanus. Considered highly important by scholars for understanding New Testament text.

Codex Alexandrinus (A): dated between 400-440 A.D. Considered one of the oldest and most complete Greek texts of the Bible. Resided in Alexandria, Egypt until 1627 when it was given to the king of England.

Codex Vaticanus (B): Greek text dated early to mid 4th century A.D. Considered the oldest surviving near complete manuscripts. Containing almost all of the Old and New Testaments.

Codex Ephraemi (C): Dated about the 5th century.

Codex Bezae (D): Dated to the end of the 4th or the beginning of the 5th century.

Codex Sinaiticus (Σ): Greek text dated around the middle of the 4th century A.D. Contains about half of Old Testament and complete copy of the New Testament. Named after the Monastery of St. Catherine in Mount Sinai in which it was found in 1844. Also thought to be the oldest bound book in the world.

Textus Receptus (TR): Or Received Text, the Greek New Testament published in the early 16th century by Dutch Renaissance theologian, Desiderius Erasmus. Published in several editions. Based on eight manuscripts from the 11th, 12th, and 15th centuries.

Masoretic Text (MT): Hebrew and Aramaic Old Testament copied and edited by Jewish rabbis known as Masoretes between the 600s and 900s A.D. Both the LXX and Dead Sea Scrolls show great consistency with MT.

Latin Vulgate: Bible translated into the common (vulgar) Latin of the day circa 385. Considered the only biblical version for a great portion of Western history (400-1500 A.D.).



Historical Accuracy of Scripture

Historical Evidence

Analysis



Overview a. The Bible is a significant source book for secular archaeology **b.** Some examples of archaeological discoveries affirming the Bible's accuracy

The following is a citation from the Institute for Creation Research's website;

"The Bible has become a significant source book for secular archaeology, helping to identify such ancient figures as Sargon (Isaiah 20:1); Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:37); Hiram of Gazer (Joshua 10:33); Hazar (Joshua 15:27); and the nation of the Hittites (Genesis 15:20). The biblical record, unlike other "scriptures," is historically set, opening itself up for testing and verification.

Two of the greatest 20th-century archaeologists, William F. Albright and Nelson Glueck, both lauded the Bible (even though they were non-Christian and secular in their training and personal beliefs) as being the single most accurate source document from history. Over and over again, the Bible has been found to be accurate in its places, dates, and records of events. No other "religious" document comes even close.

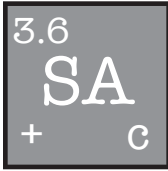
The 19th-century critics used to deny the historicity of the Hittites, the Horites, the Edomites, and various other peoples, nations, and cities mentioned in the Bible. Those critics have long been silenced by the archaeologist's spade, and few critics dare to question the geographical and ethnological reliability of the Bible.

The names of over 40 different kings of various countries mentioned in the Bible have all been found in contemporary documents and inscriptions outside of the Old Testament, and are always consistent with the times and places associated with them in the Bible. Nothing exists in ancient literature that has been even remotely as well-confirmed in accuracy as has the Bible." (1)

For further examples of historical evidence in support of the Bible, see ([A] Archaeology).

Resources

1. <http://www.icr.org/bible-history>
2. https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_405.cfm
3. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/25/historical-confirmations-of-scripture/>



Scientific Accuracy of Scripture

Scientific Evidence

Analysis



Overview a. Some examples of scientific references affirming the Bible's accuracy

The Bible is not written as a science textbook for the purpose of proving scientific truths. However, it was inspired by God who is omniscient so anytime subjects of science are presented in Scripture, they are presented accurately, even when certain subjects were not commonly known at that time. The following are a few examples of these scientific subjects listed from multiple sources (2) (3) (4):

ASTRONOMY:

The universe had a beginning (although the time frame is disputed).
 The Universe's structure and expansion
 (space-time-matter continuum Genesis 1:1, Psalm 104:2, Isa. 40:22)
 Stars are innumerable (Genesis 22:17; Jeremiah 33:22)
 Stars differ in glory (1 Corinthians 15:41)
 Stars follow a predictable pattern (Jeremiah 31:35)
 Earth is round, not flat (Isaiah 40:22; Psalm 103:12)
 The spin of the Earth (Job 38:12-14)
 Earth hangs on nothing (not built on pillars) (Job 26:7)
 The Sun moves through space (Psalm 19:5,6)
 The moon does not shine with its own light (Job 25:5)

ANTHROPOLOGY:

All humans are "one blood" descended from one man and one woman (Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 15:45; Genesis 3:20).

BIOLOGY:

God created animals "after their kind."
 Blood circulation (Leviticus 17:11)
 The nature of health, sanitation, and sickness (Leviticus 12-14)
 The growth of the body is controlled from the head (Col 2:19)

GEOLOGY:

God destroyed all creatures inhabiting the earth in a global flood.
 Water cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10)

Sea currents (Psalm 8:8)

"Fountains of the deep broken up" (Genesis 7:11)

The existence of valleys in the seas (2 Samuel 22:16)

The existence of springs and fountains in the seas (Genesis 7:11)

Continental drift described (Genesis 10:25)

OTHER SCIENCES:

The concept of entropy (Psalm 102:25-26)

Anticipation of the universal law of gravitation (Job 38:31-33)

Nuclear Fission described (2 Peter 3:10)

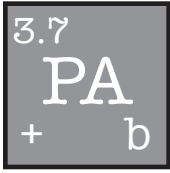
That the air has a weight (Job 28:24-27)

Description of dinosaurs (Job 40,41, Ps 74:14)

"One often hears of mistakes or errors in the Bible. Seldom, when confronted, is there an example provided. When such "errors" are cited, they fall into three kinds of alleged mistakes: 1) mathematical rounding, 2) relative motion, or 3) miracles. Obviously, mathematical rounding is both scientific and in constant use today, as is the use of relative motion for all sorts of navigation and distance calculations. To deny the miraculous is to assume that one is omniscient." (5)

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/25/scientific-confirmation-of-scripture/>
2. <https://answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/5-scientific-accuracy/>
3. <https://www.oxfordbiblechurch.co.uk/index.php/teachings/apologetics/2313-the-scientific-accuracy-of-bible>
4. <https://carm.org/scientific-accuracies-in-the-bible>
5. <http://www.icr.org/scientific-accuracy/>



Prophetic Accuracy of Scripture

Mathematical Evidence

Analysis



Overview a. The 4 criteria to determine authentic prophecy **b.** Amount of prophecies in Scripture **c.** Examples of fulfilled prophecy

There are 4 criteria that should be used to determine if a prophecy is authentic according to Professor John Bloom;

1. “Must be clear enough to be recognized when it has occurred.”
2. “Must be known to have been made before it is fulfilled.”
3. “Must not be influenced [e.g. fulfilled] by the prophet himself, or by his zealous band of followers.”
4. “Must be more than a good guess” that is, the prophet must refer to events far in the future, be specific in detail, and not be accompanied by false prophecies. (1)(3)

Aside from the Messianic prophecies, there are hundreds of other prophecies in the Bible. The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecies lists 1,817 predictions in the Bible. It outlines 1,239 in the Old Testament and 578 in the New Testament. (2) (3)

The Bible is unique in that it makes predictions that are statistically improbable but that still come to pass while most religious books do not make predictions. Some of the predictions made in Scripture are as follows:

Survival of the Jewish Nation (Jeremiah 30:10-17)

Ezekiel’s prophecy of the destruction of the Phoenician city Tyre (Ezekiel 26)

Isaiah’s prediction concerning the coming reign of the Persian King Cyrus—two hundred years before his birth (Isaiah 44:28)

Destruction of Jerusalem (Mark 13:1-2)

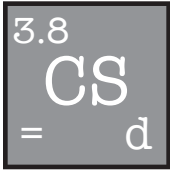
The Doom of Edom (Petra) (Jeremiah 49:15-17)

The Succession of Great World Kingdoms (Daniel 2:37-42) (7)

While some prophecies are fairly straightforward, others do require context such as linguistic and cultural knowledge but still adhere to the first criterion listed above.

Resources

1. John A. Bloom, “Truth Via Prophecy,” in John Warwick Montgomery’s, Evidence for Faith, 176-177
2. Quoted in Norman L. Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1999), 609
3. Dan Story, The Christian Combat Manual (AMG Publishers, 2007), 50-56
4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/12/12/prophecy/>
5. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/16/undesigned-coincidences-in-scripture/>
6. <https://www.davidjeremiah.org/site/articles/prophecy-becomes-history.aspx>
7. <http://www.faithfacts.org/search-for-truth/maps/fulfilled-prophecy-as-evidence>



The Canon of Scripture

Historical Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. The Bible's divine inspiration **b.** Which view of inspiration is correct **c.** Requirements used by the early church to determine the New Testament canon

Christians believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and without error in its original writings. According to 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." and Psalm 119:160 states "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal." So we know if something is shown to be Scripture, it is God-breathed meaning the words are God's and ALL of God's words are true; without error. In the past, if there was what appeared to be an error, historical, scientific, etc., time and future discoveries have proven otherwise. Also, skeptics have said that believing the Bible is divinely inspired because it says so is circular reasoning, however, If God is the ultimate source of knowledge (which He is), then this would not be a circular reasoning fallacy.

There are four primary views of Biblical inspiration:

1. The neo-orthodox view of inspiration **2.** The dictation view of inspiration **3.** The view of limited inspiration **4.** The view of plenary verbal inspiration

The plenary, verbal inspiration view is the logical and accurate view of Biblical inspiration. "The word plenary means "complete or full," and verbal means "the very words of Scripture." So plenary, verbal inspiration is the view that every single word in the Bible is the very word of God. It's not just the ideas or thoughts that are inspired, but the words themselves. Second Timothy 3:16-17 uses a unique Greek word, theopneustos, which literally means "God-breathed." Scripture is "breathed out" of the mouth of God. The Bible's words are God's words." (1)

According to Dr. Craig Blomberg, there were 3 primary requirements used by the early church to determine the New Testament canon: apostolicity, catholicity, and orthodoxy. **Apostolicity:** each book is written during the apostolic age. **Catholicity:** believers throughout the world to which Christianity was spreading were in agreement on the value of these books – and used them widely. **Orthodoxy:** the faithfulness of the books to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles

Some skeptics argue that the Christian Bible, namely the New Testament, wasn't official for several hundred years after Christ and that books we believe to be inspired today were chosen to fit men's idea about what Christianity should be but this theory simply is not accurate. To begin, despite what some people think, the Council of Nicea (AD 325), under the direction of Constantine, had nothing to do with the canon of Scripture. "...we have no church-wide council from the fourth century that determined which books should be included in the New Testament canon. What we have are, instead, regional church councils affirming the books which had already functioned as Scripture for the church. In other words, these church councils didn't grant authority to any New Testament books. Rather, they merely recognized which books were already authoritative." Also because of the persecution of Christians, the books that make up our Bible today had to often be hidden, so an official canon likely could not be formed earlier. There were a number of second century church leaders who affirmed the New Testament's authority in their writings such as; Irenaeus (AD 180), Theophilus of Antioch (AD 177), Justin Martyr (AD 150-160) and Polycarp (AD 110). "The Council of Hippo (AD 393) and the Council of Carthage (AD 397) also affirmed the same 27 books as authoritative." (2)(3)

Also, sometimes skeptics argue that because God spoke to people in the Bible having them do things like Abraham being commanded to kill Isaac which was actually a shadow of Christ, that Christians could do similar things today claiming God commanded it. However, this would not happen now since the canon is closed, so types and shadows like this would have no purpose today.

Resources

1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/inspiration-theories.html>
2. <http://jesusisnotfakenews.com/did-we-really-not-have-a-new-testament-canon-till-the-fourth-century/>
3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/canon-Bible.html>
4. <http://www.bible-researcher.com/canon5.html>

Overview **a.** The definition of Hermeneutics **b.** The definition of Exegesis **c.** Did God create the Earth in six literal days? **d.** Is it’s God’s will that true Christians are healthy and wealthy? **e.** Homosexuality **f.** Examples of Biblical context

Hermeneutics is the science of interpretation. Exegesis is a part of the process of hermeneutics; it involves the examination of a particular text of scripture in order to properly interpret it. (1) It is unfortunate that some churches have fallen away from properly interpreting Scripture for various reasons, some of which include the blending of the Bible with current scientific theories or watering down ideas like hell or sin to make the Bible seem more acceptable to society but which is wrong.

There are 4 main principles of hermeneutics:

- 1. Scripture Interprets Scripture** - Scripture will often interpret itself. As an example, sometimes a Biblical writer will interpret a previous Biblical passage.
- 2. Context Interprets Scripture** - Any verse should be read in the context of it’s surrounding verses, chapter and book. The historical, cultural and linguistic (literary style, original language, etc.) context of a verse are also important. *
- 3. Intent Interprets Scripture** - All Scripture has an original intended meaning. As such, all Scripture has one correct interpretation as well as other possible applications.
- 4. The Clear Interprets The Obscure** - Scripture will not contradict itself. When an obscure verse is interpreted, a clear verse can help with it’s interpretation.

“The most important law of biblical hermeneutics is that the Bible should be interpreted literally. We are to understand the Bible in its normal or plain meaning, unless the passage is obviously intended to be symbolic or if figures of speech are employed.” (2) The following is examples regarding creation, the prosperity gospel and homosexuality:

According to Steven Boyd, PhD interviewed in the Documentary “Is Genesis History?” he states “... [Genesis] is not poetry. The world's greatest Hebraists ALL affirm that this [Genesis] is a narrative. And they say that is one of the unique features of the Genesis accounts of creation and the flood is that they are narratives because in the ancient near east they are done in epic poetry which is very different.”. (3)

Hermeneutic for a Young Earth:

- 1. Christians maintain that the Bible is inerrant in it's original writings and language.
- 2. The writing style of Genesis is written as a historical narrative confirmed by the world's leading Hebraists as opposed to it being poetry (at least per Steven Boyd PhD).
- 3. Since the Bible is inerrant and Genesis was written as a literal historical narrative, it follows that God created the universe and everything in it in 6 literal days.
- 4. Because of 1-3, if you believe the earth was not created in six literal days, then you would have to deny premise 1, premise 2 or both premise 1 and 2 or that same logic could be applied to other areas of scripture like the references to Jesus's life not being literal historical accounts meaning Jesus could be a myth.

Hermeneutic against the prosperity gospel:

- 1. The Bible and early church history records the earliest Christ followers as often persecuted, suffering and poor when living as examples of Christ.
- 2. It may not be as difficult today for some Christ followers as it has been for ancient Christians but that does not change the nature of being a Christ follower. Christ even asked some to give all they have to follow Him and warned of persecution.
- 3. As such, followers of Christ are not promised easy lives, wealth or even good health.

Hermeneutic for homosexuality being a sin:

- 1. In the Old Testament, homosexual practices were condemned as being sin intrinsically meaning a sin in and of itself.
- 2. In the Old Testament, there were ceremonial laws like dietary restrictions, animal sacrifices, etc. which were to set God’s people apart from non-Jews.
- 3. In the New Testament, we live under grace because of Jesus’s sacrifice, so Jesus is what sets us apart meaning ceremonial laws have ceased but nowhere in the Bible has homosexual practices ever been condoned because they are intrinsically sin, thus homosexuality is always a sin.

* Context

The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.

When someone makes a statement about something in the Bible, keep these 3 types of context in mind.

Description vs Prescription • Old Ceremonial Laws • Writing Style

1 Description vs Prescription

Example: It has been argued that things like homosexuality should be embraced by Christians today, since our understanding of sexuality has progressed - even though practicing homosexuality is clearly defined as being a sin in the Bible. This argument follows that polygamy is practiced by people God used in the Bible and not specifically condemned by God, and since Christians condemn the practice today, it is evidence that our understanding of sexuality or marriage is continually maturing.

The Contextual Problem: Just because the Bible **describes** something being practiced by people in the Bible does not mean God **prescribed** the behavior. Since God has never condoned polygamy, there is no reason to deviate from what is specifically written in the Bible about homosexuality or anything else it specifically writes about. (Slavery is also something described but not prescribed.)

2 Old Ceremonial Laws

Example: The idea that things like dietary restrictions, clothing restrictions, animal sacrifices, etc. (exclusively found in the Old Testament which set the Jews apart from the pagans) are no longer practiced today, so all of Scripture, or at least other parts of Scripture that specifically condemn or condone something, should also be ignored.

The Contextual Problem: As it is recorded throughout the New Testament, Jesus came to fulfill the law and His blood is our perfect sacrifice. Because of Him, He sets us apart, so we are no longer required to practice ceremonial laws.

3 Writing Style

Example: One of the main misunderstandings of this type is that the Biblical account of creation in Genesis is figurative, metaphorical or allegorical. That the 6 days where God created were not literal days but represented billions of years, and that God just used evolution to create, just not specifically described.

The Contextual Problem: If the writing style of Genesis were poetic, the context alone would possibly allow for such an interpretation, however, the writing style of the Biblical creation account is written in historical narrative:

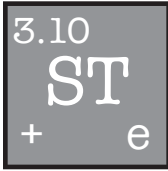
The normal order for a Hebrew narrative sentence is:
Conjunction--Verb--Subject--Object.

The order in poetic writing is:
Subject--Verb--Object

So, since the Bible does not use poetry to describe how God created the universe, it is taking it out of context to say it is anything other than a literal historical account. It is also noteworthy to mention that there are other types of Hebrew poetry that were not characterized as such until much more recently. Example: Balanced lines of thought have only been considered a poetic writing style since 1753, characterized by Bishop Robert Lowth.

Resources

- 1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Biblical-exegesis.html>
- 2. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Biblical-hermeneutics.html>
- 3. Steven Boyd, PhD - Hebrewist at Hebrew Union College
- 4. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/21/taking-the-bible-literally-on-genre/>
- 5. <http://www.apologeticsindex.org/5849-scripture-twisting>
- 6. <https://bible.org/seriespage/introduction-hebrew-poetry>



Shadows of Christ and Typology

Theological Evidence

Analysis



Overview: **a.** What Typology means **b.** Shadows of Christ hidden in genealogies **c.** Shadows of Christ hidden in ancient meanings of Hebrew letters **d.** Shadows of Christ displayed in other people or objects **e.** Shadows of Christ displayed in Jewish holidays

All of Scripture is about Jesus. The Old Testament and Jesus amazingly confirm each other. God in His sovereignty has chosen to reveal his plan of salvation to His creation before the Word incarnate, Jesus, came to Earth. In the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, there are “pictures” or reflections of people who are yet to be born. Differing from visions and dreams, these pictures are actual events or people that were prophetic depictions. This is known as typology. These “shadows” are less than perfect representatives of the actual person. They aren’t narrowed to people and events. Typologies can also be objects and ceremonies. The person being foreshadowed is known as the antitype. (1)

In Genesis 5 the genealogy from Adam to Noah and a meaning of each name in English reads like a shadow of the life of Christ. Some names have multiple meanings and roots but one translation of each of the ten names, one name after the other reads:

Man Appointed Mortal Sorrow, The Blessed God Shall come down Teaching, His death shall bring The despairing, Rest (2)

Genesis 29:31-35, 30:1-24, and 35:16-18 describes the 12 sons of Jacob who would become the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel. Each name has multiple meanings and even different roots. One translation of each of the twelve names, one name after the other, also reads like a shadow of the life of Christ:

Behold a son who hears with acceptance, joined to (us), let Him be praised. A judge of my wrestling bringing good fortune to obtain His approval. He is wages (for) a glorious and reserved dwelling place. He shall add (us) son(s) of his right hand. (3)

The first two words in Genesis act very much like a Messianic Prophecy, so the story of Jesus as Creator and Savior is outlined in just two words which amazingly happen to be the first two words in the Bible. In ancient Hebrew (Paleo-Hebrew) there is an idiographic or pictographic meaning assigned to each letter of the alphabet. These are symbols that depict an idea and because of this, the idea of Jesus as Creator and Savior can be seen in the first two words of Genesis themselves. The meaning of the letters of the 1st word Barasheet translated as “In the beginning” reads as follows: **The Son of God (will be) destroyed (by His own) work on a cross.** Also, the meaning of the letters of the 2nd word Bara translated as **“Created”** pictographically means **Son of God**, so as Scripture plainly tells us (John 1:1-3), it can also be seen in the word “created” itself that Jesus was the one who created us; everything that was created was created by Jesus, the Son of God. It should be noted that this is not a hermeneutical way to interpret Scripture and some would argue these meanings are irrelevant today and cherry picked to be interpreted this way. The main point here is that the paleo-Hebrew letters do hold these meanings and in this case, it would seem more than a coincidence that they do. (4)

In Genesis 3 God used the animal skins to cover Adam and Eve foreshadowing His Son’s sacrifice. With Noah and the ark in Genesis 6 there are two types, depictions of Christ, within the same picture. The ark was the only way of salvation from the impending flood (judgement). The door (Jesus) was also the only way to escape the flood.

There is prophetic significance to each of the seven Levitical feasts of Israel: (5)

- 1) Passover (Leviticus 23:5)
- 2) Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6)
- 3) First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10)
- 4) Weeks or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16)
- 5) Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24)
- 6) Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27)
- 7) Tabernacles or Booths (Leviticus 23:34)

Resources

1. <https://theologetics315.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/types-and-shadows.pdf>
2. <https://theologetics315.wordpress.com/2015/11/06/the-hidden-verse-about-jesus-in-genesis-5/>
3. <https://theologetics315.wordpress.com/2017/08/09/the-2nd-hidden-verse-about-jesus-in-genesis/>
4. <https://theologetics315.wordpress.com/2017/10/31/jesus-hidden-in-the-first-two-words-of-the-bible/>
5. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jewish-feasts.html>

4. CHRISTIANITY

This is the 4th Basic Element section of the Table about Christianity. It provides support that the Christian worldview is relevant despite the Bible being written thousands of years ago, and it is balanced when tested with the 3-4-5 method of analyzing worldviews outlined in the Balance page. There are 15 elements in this section which are;

4.1 Genesis
4.2 God's Will
4.3 Sin
4.4 Salvation

4.5 Faith
4.6 Love
4.7 Life
4.8 Witnessing

4.9 Apologetics
4.10 Prayer
4.11 Worship
4.12 Spiritual Gifts

4.13 Spiritual Disciplines
4.14 Church Traditions
4.15 Theology

“

They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

-The Apostle Paul

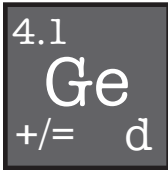
For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

-The Apostle Paul

I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.

”

-Jesus Christ



Genesis

Theological Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Definition of Genesis **b.** How can God exist outside of time and space? **c.** How are we to understand God creating from nothing? **d.** Adam and Eve **e.** Noah and the flood **f.** The Tower of Babel

Genesis is the first book in the Bible which means origins or beginning and in this case refers to the origin of the universe and the beginning of life.

From Scripture we know God is spirit. The Bible describes God as eternal, self-sufficient, having unlimited power (omnipotent) and knowledge of everything (omniscient). We know space, matter and time all had a beginning from various scientific discoveries. We know from the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics that the energy of the universe is winding down meaning on it's present course, the universe will not be suitable for life in the very distant future or for anything to happen for that matter so something had to have "wound it up". We also know that because of the Law of Cause and Effect, whatever caused the universe had to be greater than the universe. The God of the Bible fits these criteria. Being spirit, God exists multidimensionally and beyond spiritually. Many in the scientific community do not like this idea because it is beyond what is testable with the scientific method but it is logical. In fact, it is the most logical option for the origin of our universe. We know the universe needs a beginning but logically God does not.

Ex Nihilo, Nihil Fit. ("Out of nothing, nothing comes"). So how did God create the universe from nothing? The simple answer is that God created from Himself, from His own power bringing it forth out of nothing. This is both logical and Biblical. Everything good comes from God. The universe can be thought of as being sustained by God's power and His existence. Evil is in essence the absence of good. So while some argue that for evil to exist means part of God would need to be evil, this is not the case as anything evil is merely the absence of good; a byproduct of man's free will as opposed to an actual created entity. Evil is the distortion of good.

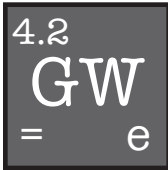
In Genesis, the origin of the human race is described starting with one man (Adam) and one woman (Eve). Some Christians believe this to be metaphorical but there are various reasons to believe Adam and Eve were literal people and that the aspects of the creation account in Genesis was historical. It can be experimentally demonstrated that humans originated from people and not apes, that two humans began our species, humans originated around 6,000 years ago, and major human ethnic groups originated near Ararat. (2) This aligns perfectly with what Scripture tells us about how life began. One question often asked by skeptics is, if Adam and Eve were the first and only people, who was Cain's wife? The only logical answer is that in the beginning, when human genes would have likely been more pure, family members would have taken each other as mates.

Genesis also describes a time when humanity grew so evil that God destroyed all but one family with a flood. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were instructed to build a large boat called an ark which they used to save themselves and 2 of every kind of land animal. There are some who also believe this story to be figurative or an embellished story but this account too is most likely literal given various reasons including scientific evidence for a global flood. (3) (4)

Genesis also explains why the human race has so many different languages. Sometime after the flood, possibly only 100 years after, men said to each other "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4). This story is known as the Tower of Babel. It is unclear what exactly the purpose of the tower was for. Some believe it was out of fear of another flood, others think it may have had something to do with a lost technology, while still others think it was simply out of direct disobedience to God's command to repopulate the earth. Whatever the case, God intervened to stop the project, confusing the group by changing their individual languages. It is believed that all the thousands of languages known today can be traced back to specific language families amounting to less than 100. This aligns with what the Bible describes happening at Babel.

Resources

1. <http://www.ldolphin.org/genmyth.html>
2. <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/adam-and-eve/genetics-confirms-recent-supernatural-creation-adam-and-eve/>
3. <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/the-church-and-the-global-genesis-flood/>
4. <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/was-the-flood-of-noah-global-or-local-in-extent/>
5. <https://theoletics315.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/what-wasnt-good-during-creation1.pdf>



God's Will

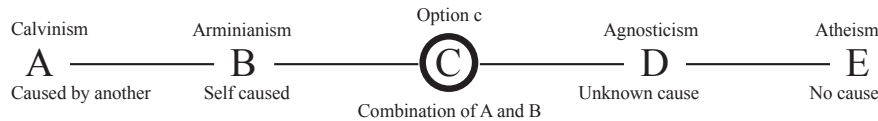
Theological Explanation

Analysis

Overview a. God's will and man's will b. Man's freedom to choose Hell over God

The question is how can God's will and man's will coexist And how can God be all-knowing and all-powerful but at the same time still be loving and just. We know from the Bible that God is somehow all of these things but people have argued for centuries over how this is possible. There are various views among Christians such as the Thomistic, Molinism, Apostolic, etc., each have their own strong and weak points but the two most well known views are Calvinism and Arminianism but we are interested in what the Bible alludes to most so the option we will discuss we call Option c.

Primary options for man's will



Consider this question; if you toss a coin on the ground one time, which side is it least likely to land on?



The answer is option C (the 3rd side of the coin). If one side represents God's power and knowledge while the other side is His love and justice, most people don't even consider this to be a possibility even though it was right under their noses from the very beginning.



Since God had chosen the elect outside of time before the foundations of the Earth were even set. And because man is temporal, what has not yet happened inside of time has not yet happened with man. And because man exists inside of time, man has not yet been chosen inside of time until the moment he chooses God. So it can be demonstrated that people who do not choose God are personally responsible for their choice for eternity, while people who do choose

God do so because they were called by God. It's that simple and yet it's not. (2)

Many have a hard time accepting the idea that God would allow people to spend eternity in hell simply for not following Him but the Bible clearly teaches that this is the case. And some people even believe that God is not justified in allowing bad things to happen. The following is an example of how this can be explained.

Two things must first be understood;

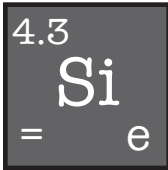
1. God cannot just allow sin because He is holy by nature.
2. And for God to truly show love, He gave mankind an element of free will.

So when it comes to mercy, grace, and wrath, God is a lot like gravity. Gravity keeps people on earth from floating away. It allows us to go about our days and live our lives. Gravity makes it possible for life. On the other hand, those who break the law of gravity are hurt and killed. The same law that allows life also allows death. Just like we are free to break the law of gravity, we are free to break God's law and not accept Him. God gives us this freedom to choose because He made us in His image and because He loves us. Sadly the downside to this freedom is the result of sin on earth and in eternity.

Also concerning hell, a common belief within Christianity (and a Biblical one) is that God is everywhere, but there seems to be an issue when considering hell. Many believe hell is a place where the unrepentant spend eternity without God but these two concepts seem to contradict each other. The other option is that God is present in hell in the form of His wrath but His love and everything good about God is obviously not in hell which seems to imply that God can be divided by finite human terms and thus, God would not be indivisible which contradicts His simplicity. Since God is indeed everywhere and is indivisible, it could be that His attributes are more concentrated in some places than others according to His will which seems to solve both problems. Another possibility is that like darkness is not a tangible thing, hell may just be the exception to the rule meaning God is everywhere except in hell. Since we live in God's presence every day, from the moment we are born to the moment we die, we do not know what it truly means to be apart from God, if we did no one would choose to be. We can experience small glimpses of what hell would be like when we lose loved ones or lose the love of the ones we love, so God's ultimate wrath may just be granting the desires of those who choose separation from Him making hell the only place God is not.

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/25/compatibility-of-sovereignty-and-free-will/>
2. <https://theogetics.org/2015/12/14/option-c-the-time-salvation-paradox/>
3. <https://theogetics315.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/calvinism-arminianism-option-c1.pdf>



Sin

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. God gave Adam and Eve the gift of free will **b.** 4 sins that are at the root of every sin **c.** Why did Lucifer sin? **d.** The unforgivable sin is likely different than sin **e.** Man is evil and will twist the Bible to justify evil deeds

It is hard for many to understand that when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, that this one sin of disobedience caused all the pain, destruction and death in the world. But look at it this way; God forbidding Adam and Eve from eating from ONE tree in the garden was actually a gift; a gift of free will. They were not prisoners, they had a choice to do what they wanted or to follow what God commanded. Even today, many skeptics don't feel it is fair that believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven but consider this;



In a fallen world there is one way to fellowship with God. Some may say that a God who only provides one way to heaven is unfair.



But in a pre-fallen world there was all but one way to fellowship with God. So even when there was only one way to hell, man still made the wrong choice and God loved us so much he died to change it.

Every sin has at its root these basic sins; **idolatry, disbelief, rebellion, and impurity**. God's glory somehow being hidden from Lucifer may explain Lucifer's initial desire to "be" God. So it is possible, while Lucifer didn't know what we know about the ugliness involved in the separation from God, some degree of separation may have sparked the initial flame within him. This is not to say that it is absolutely how it happened, it is just a possibility. Sin separates us from God because He is holy by His very nature. Sin means to miss the mark, evil is in essence the absence of good and thus the absence of God as all good things come from God. Eternal absence from God is the ultimate consequence of sin as that is by it's nature what those who pursue sin are actually striving for "Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit". Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit is called the unforgivable sin (Mark 3:28-30). This is in a completely different category than all other sins as it will not be forgiven. To live a life for yourself and deny the gift of salvation given by Jesus Christ is "Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit", it is not simply one action but a life of denying God and results in an eternity apart from God in hell. God does not send anyone to hell, we send ourselves there. CS Lewis said;

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done", and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in hell choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find to those who knock, it is opened."

Saying "Christianity is evil because men have used the Bible to justify war and doing evil things" is like saying "Baseball is evil because men have used bats to do evil things". Ironically the Bible makes it clear, man is fallen and will twist good to justify evil but God is always good! While a comparatively small amount of evil has historically been done under the guise of Christianity, the Bible makes it clear to expect man to misuse good to accomplish evil. Even science made guns, missiles and the Atom bomb possible but you don't hear those who criticize Christianity also criticize science to the same degree despite these weapons being used to harm humanity far more than the misuse of Christianity ever has.

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/13/on-hell/>
2. <https://carm.org/questions-about-sin>
3. <https://theogetics.org/2016/01/30/why-didnt-god-make-us-perfect-without-sin/>

Salvation

Theological Evidence & Explanation

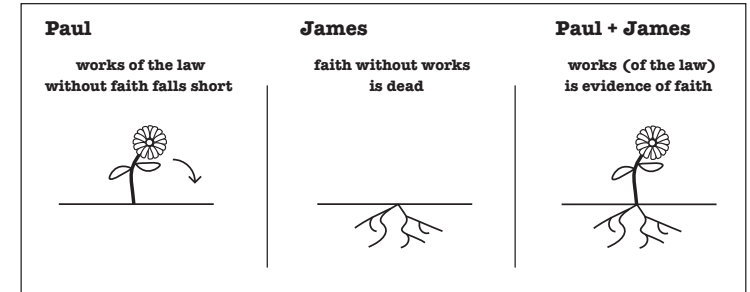


Overview a. How to receive salvation **b.** A popular misunderstanding about salvation and works **c.** The Age of Accountability **d.** Eternal Security **e.** What happens to people who die without ever hearing about Jesus? **f.** Evidence of Salvation

How can someone receive salvation?

“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10

An apparent contradiction in the Bible regarding salvation is found in Romans 3 (written by Paul) and James 2 (written by James). At first glance the reader may find the writer's descriptions of salvation to be opposite but they are actually very similar. Paul states that a person is justified by faith and not by works while he also states that we by no means overthrow the law by this faith but uphold it. James states that a person is justified by works and **not by faith alone** while he also said that faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. So to the right is a diagram that helps illustrate the similarities of these ideas:



The three tenses of salvation: you have been saved (Justification), you are being saved (Sanctification), and you will be saved (Glorification).

Age of Accountability: The belief that once a child reaches a certain age, he or she is then accountable for their sins. In this system the child, beforehand, would have automatically been saved upon their death. The traditional age is 12 or 13 years old based on Jewish traditions. However, some believe there is no set age; that each child is different based on maturity and level of understanding. Biblical support for the age of accountability can be found in 2 Samuel 12:14-31 when David loses his infant son and states he will go to him but the child will not come back to David. There are other verses about Jesus' own words regarding children which also appear to support this idea.

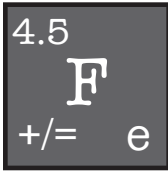
Eternal Security: Also known as Once Saved Always Saved or Perseverance of the Saints. The belief that an individual cannot lose their salvation. This view is one of the main tenants of the Reformed faith and has gained popularity in Pentecostal churches. Verses like John 10:28-29, Jude 24 and Ephesians 4:30 appear to support this idea while the contrary belief that salvation can be lost seems to change the power and meaning of salvation from being a gift from God to a work of man.

What about people who never hear about Jesus? There are varying views about this topic within Christendom but some of the main/most helpful views are 1. People who never had the opportunity to choose or reject Jesus are simply lost. 2. Being omniscient, God foreknew who would or would not accept Jesus and arranged this world so those who would accept Him are given that opportunity. 3. God is fair and just-- the Bible does not specifically state what happens to those who never chose Jesus due to never having heard of Him and saying these people automatically go to Hell may be reading more into what the Bible actually says. It is by Jesus' work on the cross we can be saved and what people do with the degree of revelation about God they receive is what they will be judged on. 4. We as humans have a desire for God and for truth, if anyone seeks, he/she will find the truth, even through supernatural revelation if required. With all that said, whatever view is true, we know God will deal with the lost fairly.

Evidence of salvation: Having a personal relationship with God means the Holy Spirit lives inside you and will begin to shape you to be more like Christ. This can be a long and slow process for some but a Christian will begin to show the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Resources

1. Wyld, Theologygrams, pg 83.
2. <https://carm.org/questions-about-salvation>
3. <https://carm.org/questions-about-sanctification>
4. <https://bible.org/seriespage/13-death-david-s-son-2-samuel-1214-31>
5. Dan Story, The Christian Combat Manual, pg 217-223.



Faith

Theological Evidence & Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Explanation why God can't be 100% proven **b.** Biblical references to evidence of God aside from faith

Why would a loving God not make Himself plainly known to everyone so faith is not needed, so each person could freely reject or accept Him without faith being required? The answer to this question may actually be quite simple;

God is perfect and God is holy. He created us with the sin plan. Somehow this is better than making us perfect without sin. The reason why it is better is evident in the Genesis account of God making the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil for Adam and Eve, and even before with Lucifer by possibly hiding His glory from Lucifer so he and all of creation could experience an unforced choice to love God which seems to require free will. So, if we lived in a world where we knew God existed beyond the shadow of a doubt and that we must choose God or suffer serious consequences, that would be a world that doesn't really have a choice. And if God didn't really give us a choice, if He didn't give us the ability to have faith and to follow Him, we wouldn't really have the capacity to love because love is a choice. It is also possible that a future place that is free from sin but where we also have free will, could first require our current state as a key difference in sin today and original sin is now we know the ugliness involved with sin. (2)

While there is no absolute proof for God existing, the evidence for God's existence is everywhere, all around us, it is overwhelming but many people choose to be blind to it and follow their own desires and beliefs. A skeptic cannot find God like a thief cannot find a police officer.

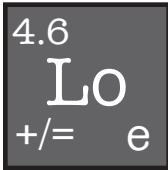
"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." -Romans 1:20

"They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right." -Romans 2:15

Faith in Jesus is what God requires for us to be saved from our sinfulness. God does not make Himself visible to all, so faith is still required, but the evidence for the God of the Bible is so strong that no one will have an excuse at the time of judgement.

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/11/18/reason-science-and-faith/>
2. <https://theogetics.org/2016/01/30/why-didnt-god-make-us-perfect-without-sin/>



Love

Theological Evidence & Explanation

Analysis

Overview a. Love + Holiness + Free Will = explanation why God permits evil **b.** Types of love **c.** Most important commandments are about love **d.** Evidence of salvation

"God permits what he hates to accomplish what he loves."

-Joni Eareckson Tada



The 4 types of love in Greek are Eros, Phileo, Storge and Agape and the 3 types of love in Hebrew are Dod, Raya and Ahava;

- **Eros** - physical & sensual love designed to be between husband & wife
- **Dod** - physical touch with passionate & romantic feelings
- **Phileo** - love of friends, close friendship
- **Raya** - best friend, companion, soul mate
- **Storge** - family love, the bond between family members
- **Ahava** - deep affection, love of will stronger than death
- **Agape** - selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love
- **God** - the source of all manifestations of love

Biblical marriage is the only thing that pulls all these types of love together.

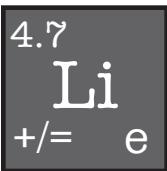
“The most important [commandment],” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” -Mark 12:29-31

“I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” -John 13:34-35.

Acting outside of love is wrong but part of fallen human nature. When someone gives their life to Christ, God’s love will begin to shape him/her and will show through them in how they treat others. Some skeptics of Christianity deny it’s validity by pointing to people who claim to be Christians but who live their lives contrary to it’s teachings. If a professing Christian isn’t living a life of love towards others, it’s a good indicator they aren’t really followers of Christ. Love comes from God; God is love (but not only love) He is the source of love but at the same time, love is not simply a good feeling but a choice to put others before yourself.

Resources

1. Ravi Zacharias
2. <https://bible.org/seriespage/32-eleventh-commandment-john-1331-38>



Overview **a.** What are human beings (Body, mind and spirit), **b.** Do animals go to Heaven? **c.** Why abortion is wrong (SLED argument) **d.** Why racism is a violation against God **d.** Why slavery is a violation against God

What are human beings?

Body - Material - Physical - Flesh - Matter

Man is a physical being - made up of a variety of elements that exist in our physical world; the same elements that make up everything else that we can see and touch. Man is a highly complex arrangement of these elements in the form of a multitude of molecules, chemicals, proteins, and DNA. The body was the first part of man that was created from the dust of the Earth as recorded in Genesis. It was, however, incomplete until God breathed life into the body giving man spirit and consciousness. Because of man’s sin, all must die and be separated from their bodies. However, God is compassionate and showed mercy on us because of His love for us. He sent His Son Jesus as a sacrifice so we could be made whole again. So we know that it is His will that we be reunited with not just our bodies after death but with Him.

Mind - Psychological - Soul - Psyche - Consciousness

Man is also a conscious being - able to perceive things abstractly in his mind, beyond what he knows or has seen in the physical world around him. There is no proof in assuming that the “mind” is a function of matter and only a process within the brain. Both the physical brain and the Psychological mind can interact without having to be identical. Man is no more just a brain than he is a kidney or a fingernail and the idea that man or self or mind is nothing without the brain is actually a reductionist fallacy. In fact, the act of man “knowing” that he is nothing more or something more than a brain in and of itself, signifies that he is more than a brain. The mind is a part of man, and man is a part of the mind. So we know the mind is attached to the body but is more than just matter and exists beyond the material. It connects the body to the spirit.

Spirit - Immaterial - Metaphysical - Essence - Life

Man is a spiritual being - the innermost part of man is the spirit. A lot like the Holy Trinity; man is made up of three distinct parts but each by themselves is not man. Man’s spirit is always a part of him, but once he accepts Christ as the Lord of his life, it transforms his spirit and allows him access to God’s power by the continuous renewing of his mind. The spirit is the part that is truly the eternal essence of man and exists beyond death.

Do animals have spirits/go to heaven?

It has been said that plants are just physical things, animals are both body and soul (although clearly somewhat different than man), while man is body, soul, and spirit. The Bible, however, is not clear if animals have an eternal existence or not, perhaps as spirit instead of soul or maybe even both. King Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, did not claim to know. “Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?” Ecclesiastes 3:21. It is clear that man has an eternal element to him and that is in the form of spirit and soul. These are often categorized as being the same thing, if not eternally linked together.

Why abortion is a violation against God

As humans, we are made in the image of God and thus have intrinsic value. Some people believe value is gained later in life, and thus, abortion (the termination of an unborn human) is justifiable. The SLED Test is a simple argument against abortion. There are only 4 differences between the unborn and the born:

- 1. Size:** A four year-old is smaller than a fourteen year-old. Can we kill her because she’s not as big as a teenager? No.
- 2. Level of development:** A four year-old girl can’t bear children while a fourteen year-old girl can. Does that disqualify her from personhood? No.
- 3. Environment:** Can moving from one place to another alter your status as a person? No. Where you are has no bearing on what/who you are.
- 4. Degree of dependency:** Can a newborn or toddler be killed because they still depend upon their parents to provide nutrition and a safe environment? No.

Also, some within Christendom are pro-choice even though they may say they personally disagree with abortion. They may cite God not forcing religion on anyone, and the importance of God giving people a choice being more important than making laws to keep babies from being terminated in the womb. While there are various Bible verses that would strongly support the pro-life position, it is true that the Bible does not mention abortion by name, however, “The Didache”, also known as The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles dated to the 1st century AD specifically states “do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant.”. So while the Bible may not speak to abortion specifically, a document attributed to Jesus’s closest followers clearly forbids it which is worth mentioning.

Why standing against racism and standing against homosexuality are similar

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’” -Acts 17:26-28

God designed all ethnic groups. A person’s race and ethnicity is sacred, a gift from God. In the same way sexuality is sacred and a gift from God. Racism is a violation against God in the same way practicing homosexuality is a violation against God. The Bible outlines the ultimate expression of love is Biblical marriage between one man and one woman, and to deviate from that is to violate what God has given. With that said, hating or treating anyone as less than human, be it for their race, sexual preference, gender, religion, etc. is wrong but simply taking a stance for what God has made sacred is to show love.

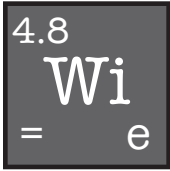
Why slavery is a violation against God

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. -1 Timothy 1:8-11

1. Slaves under the Mosaic Law were different from the harshly treated slaves of other societies; they were more like servants or bondservants.
2. The Bible doesn’t give an endorsement of slave traders but just the opposite (1 Timothy 1:10). A slave/bondservant was acquired when a person voluntarily entered into it when he needed to pay off his debts.
3. The Bible recognizes that slavery is a reality in this sin-cursed world and doesn’t ignore it, but instead gives regulations for good treatment by both masters and servants and reveals they are equal under Christ.
4. Israelites could sell themselves as slaves/bondservants to have their debts covered, make a wage, have housing, and be set free after six years. Foreigners could sell themselves as slaves/bondservants as well.
5. Biblical Christians led the fight to abolish harsh slavery in modern times.” (6)

Resources

1. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/23/pro-life/>
2. <https://www.str.org/articles/the-s.l.e.d.-test#.WW7JDookqRs>
3. <https://carm.org/questions-about-man>
4. <https://carm.org/abortion>
5. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/40-quotes-from-medical-experts-that-prove-human-life-begins-at-conception/>
6. <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-questions/doesnt-the-bible-support-slavery/>



Witnessing

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Points on effective witnessing **b.** Why witnessing is an act of love

If the belief that the actions in this life have eternal consequences is true, the only logical and loving conclusion is for Christians to attempt to share the Gospel; the good news of God's saving grace. The only way to eternal life with God is through giving your life to Jesus Christ, recognizing you are a sinner who needs Jesus, asking Him to forgive you for your sins and following Jesus. As such the Great Commission of Jesus to his followers was to spread the good news to all! Also, some skeptics get offended by Christians sharing the good news of Jesus but they do not fully understand what is at stake and they deny the evidence we all have of our need for a savior.

Non-believers often have a hard time understanding Christianity because they cannot see past a naturalistic worldview. If you ask someone “If Jesus really is God and Christianity were true, would you give your life to Him and become a Christian?” If that person answers no, that’s a good indication he/she does not have an open heart or mind to know the truth.

Popular Atheist Penn Jillette has said;

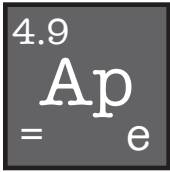
‘If you believe that there’s a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward... how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?’

...I mean, if I believed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn’t believe that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I would tackle you. And this is more important than that.’ (1)

As Christians, we are not only called to preach the Gospel but to make disciples. Discipleship is teaching followers of Jesus to be more like Him and to hold each other accountable for how we live our lives.

Resources

1. Penn Jillette



Apologetics

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. What is Apologetics? **b.** The different types of apologetics **c.** Apologetics should be relational, respectful and loving

Christian Apologetics is the defense of Christian doctrine (God, Jesus, the Bible and the Christian life) using the sciences, history and logic. The point of apologetics should be to win souls, not to win arguments which some “Christians” seem to often forget. Even Jesus used evidence in His ministry. Apologetics can help fill in the mental gaps that exist for those who do not understand how to reconcile modern science with the Bible but while apologetics can help in understanding, it is the Holy Spirit that must move the person to believe and give his or her life to Christ. The Bible says to always be ready to give an answer for why you believe what you believe. It’s argued that apologetics is useless because if God needs defending, then he must not be God, but this is a misunderstanding of the purpose of apologetics since God chooses to use his creation to show his love because God is relational.

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**,” -1 Peter 3:15

As Christians we rely on the Bible as the authority of our lives and what we believe but for those who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus, they will not recognize the Bible as an authority on anything so that is where apologetics can be helpful. After all, the Bible talks about other ways we can know God exists without the Bible;

“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.”
-Romans 1:20

“They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.”
-Romans 2:15

Multiple ways to approach apologetics:

Presuppositional Apologetics

- Emphasizes the importance of presuppositions or the foundations of one’s thinking.
- Assumes the existence of God and the truth of the Bible.

Classical Apologetics

- Stresses rational argumentation for the existence of God.
- It is necessary to demonstrate the existence of God first in order to argue for the resurrection of Jesus. (God must exist for miracles to occur).

Evidential Apologetics

- It emphasize giving evidence for the Christian faith whether historical, logical, etc.
- It maintains miracles do not presuppose God’s existence but can serve as evidence for His existence. (1)(5)

Experiential Apologetics

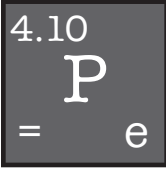
- The primary appeal to experience as evidence for the Christian faith.

5 Reasons Arguing in a Loving Way can be Worthwhile Even if the Person You Are Arguing With Does Not Change:

1. To set an example of arguing in a Christlike, loving and respectful manner.
2. To set an example of sharing your opinion even if it is controversial.
3. To provide support to others listening that share your view but do not have the courage/knowledge to speak up.
4. To change the minds/plant a seed in the hearts of others listening who may be more open than the one you are arguing with.
5. To gain a better understanding of other’s specific points of view.

Resources

1. <https://carm.org/apologetics-outline>
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/26/answering-objections-to-doing-apologetics/>
3. <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-apologetics/>
4. <https://carm.org/apologetics>
5. <http://reasonfortruth.bible/about-apologetics/types-of-apologetics>



Prayer

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Definition of prayer **b.** Ways God answers prayer **c.** Praying in a way that aligns with God

Prayer is not telling God something new that He didn't already know or an attempt to change His heart, it's the act of drawing closer to His heart to become something new. Prayer is not simply asking God to grant your wishes, fulfill your needs or even just talking to God. Prayer is talking **with** God so you can get to know Him better, learn to hear his voice and grow in relationship with Him. It's important to remember, sometimes God changes our difficult circumstances but usually He changes and matures us using difficult circumstances.

When we do ask God for something, God will give only one of three answers;

- 1. Yes**
- 2. Not yet**
- 3. I have something better**

The first answer to prayer, when God says yes, occurs when our desires align with what God has planned for us. God wants to give us the desires of our hearts when those desires fit into God's bigger picture.

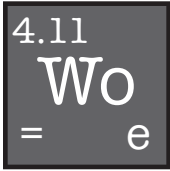
The second answer to prayer may be hard to accept but getting what we want, when we want it, is not always the best thing for us. God's timing is perfect and therefore, sometimes God will tell us to wait.

The third answer may feel like God is simply saying no but we cannot forget who we are talking to. He is the creator of all things. He is the source of love. He is the bearer of complete knowledge and wisdom. God's plan may often not make sense to us but we can only see a small part of the bigger picture which will one day be shown to us and at which point everything will make perfect sense.

God does not change, we do. God is holy and we are not. When sin enters the picture, God must act, he is unchanging in this way which is evident in the Bible such as being sorry he made man and destroying the earth with a flood (Genesis 6–9). So the same principle can be applied to prayer. While we cannot change God's mind, it's as if prayer can move God to act in ways we cannot fully understand since we are the ones changing for the good, moving closer to God because of our prayers.

Resources

1. <https://theologetics.org/2018/02/24/matthew-1819-and-prayer/>



Worship

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. What is worship? **b.** Why does God require worship?

Many people think of worship as “music about God” or “singing to God” but music is just one expression of worship. Sometimes people could even be singing to God and actually not really be worshipping God at all if they don’t have a heart of worship. Matthew 15:8–9: “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me.”

“The inner essence of worship is the response of the heart to the knowledge of the mind when the mind is rightly understanding God and the heart is rightly valuing God.” Real worship is valuing God above all else, worship depends on an accurate grasp of God’s supreme value. “So true worship is based on a right understanding of God’s nature, and it is a right valuing of God’s worth.” (1)

Two Acts of Worship

1. Acts of the mouth: These can be through praise through music to repentance to God and others.
2. Acts of love with the body, hands and feet: These are expressions of love for God by loving people, caring for others and placing their needs before our own.

Hebrews 13:15–16: “Through him, then,” — through Christ — “let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

So really, true worship is a lifestyle. It shouldn’t be something Christians do now and then, but instead, it should be how we live our lives every moment of every day. Worship flows from our hearts in the form of acts of love towards others and admiration of God.

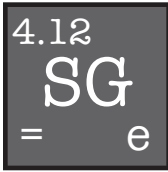
Why does God demand or expect us to worship Him?

“Worship is “to give honor, homage, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to a superior being.” God demands worship because He and He alone is worthy of it. He is the only being that truly deserves worship. He requests that we acknowledge His greatness, His power, and His glory.”

So worship of God actually follows naturally given the definition of the word. “God expects us to worship Him as an expression of reverence and thanksgiving to Him. But God also expects us to be obedient to Him. He wants not only for us to love Him; He wants us to act justly toward each other, to show love and compassion to others. In this way, we present ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him. This glorifies God and is our “reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). God also desires that we worship Him because our eternal destiny depends on our worship of the true and living God. Philippians 3:3” (3)

Resources

1. <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-worship>
2. <https://www.gotquestions.org/true-worship.html>
3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/God-demand-worship.html>



Spiritual Gifts

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Background **b.** List of Biblical Spiritual Gifts, which may not be an exhaustive list **c.** Biblical Offices of the church **d.** Should women be pastors?

Some Christians teach that certain gifts were only active during the apostolic age, meaning they ceased after the apostles' time. Others believe it is evident, due to modern day miracles within the church as a whole, that all the gifts that make up the Body are still active today; the Body as a whole is still whole. It is also evident that some churches place too much emphasis on certain gifts which detracts from their purpose, and thus, it would appear those churches are not acting as part of the Body. Some Christians may have multiple gifts but God grants certain gifts to individuals to fulfill his purposes. See Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:28, and Ephesians 4:11.

Prophecy – This is not only the foretelling of future events but revealing the will of God and knowledge that would otherwise be hidden. Prophecy will always align with Scripture and can often be confirmed by others, sometimes even in a supernatural way (Some believe this to be apostolic).

Serving – This can be service of any kind, to provide for those in need.

Teaching – This is the unique ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge concerning Biblical doctrines.

Encouraging – Also called “exhortation” which is the calling upon of others to heed and follow God’s truth, which may involve correcting or building others up by strengthening weak faith or even comforting in trials.

Giving – This is the joyful sharing with others, whether it is financial, material, or personal time and attention.

Leadership – A natural born leader. One who naturally exhibits wisdom and grace in the leading of others.

Mercy – The natural desire to alleviate pain in others and the ability to lessen their suffering in a kind and cheerful manner.

Word of wisdom – Likely the ability to understand and speak Biblical truth into the situations of others.

Word of knowledge – The ability to understand and speak the mysteries of God.

Faith – Likely different than the faithfulness fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), the spiritual gift of faith is exhibited by one with a strong and unshakable confidence in God, His Word, His promises, and the power of prayer to effect miracles.

Healing – The ability of men to produce miraculous healings (Some believe this to be apostolic).

Miraculous powers – Also known as the working of miracles, performing supernatural events that could only be attributed to the power of God (Some believe this to be apostolic).

Distinguishing (discerning) of spirits – Possessing the ability to determine the true message of God from that of deceptive and erroneous doctrine.

Speaking in tongues – This is the divine ability to speak in languages previously unknown to the speaker. The purpose of this gift is to edify the speaker and minister to others in a supernatural way, if this gift is used in front of those who do not understand what is being said, an interpretation should be given. This is not a requirement for salvation (Some believe this to be apostolic).

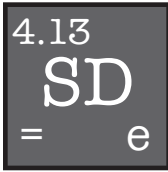
Interpretation of tongues – The tongues interpreter is one who supernaturally communicate the message of the tongues speaker to everyone else, so all could understand (Some believe this to be apostolic).

Helps – Those who can aid or render assistance to others in the church with compassion and grace.

There are also roles or offices within the church, which are sometimes added to the list of spiritual gifts. The first two offices are also considered apostolic by some. The offices are: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Many within the church believe women should not hold a role in the church above a man. It would seem there is strong evidence to support if a woman is more spiritually mature and able to teach than her male counterpart she should do so, all the while making sure a male is being readied for the position. As for women’s roles in the work place I believe the biblical women like Miriam, Deborah, and Esther show that women are capable of being strong, powerful, leaders.

Resources

1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-gifts-list.html>
2. https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_447.cfm
3. <https://theogetics315.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/the-role-of-women-in-the-church.pdf>



Spiritual Disciplines

Theological Explanation

Analysis



Overview a. Bible Memorization **b.** Fasting **c.** Praying **d.** Silence **e.** Solitude **f.** Meditation **g.** Reflection **h.** Confession

Bible Memorization: Throughout the history of the church, many Christians have memorized large portions of the Bible. Bible memorization helps us grow closer to God, helps us to combat temptation when we are tempted, aids in witnessing or recognizing witnessing opportunities and helps us through difficult times in our lives. The Bible is also clear about storing up God's word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11).

Fasting: Fasting is the act of giving up food, or sometimes other things, for a period of time to focus on God as our provider. Often, the person fasting will replace the time spent eating with prayer or reading the Bible. The act of fasting allows us to rely on God and place him first in our daily walk. There are many verses in the Bible that discuss fasting in both the Old and New Testaments such as Luke 18:12, Joel 2:12 and Psalm 35:13-14 to name a few.

Praying: The act of talking with God. God wants to be close to each one of us and one of the best ways to draw near to God is to talk to him which is what we call prayer. God knows what we think and so a prayer can be just thoughts but often Christians pray out loud to God to verbalize their thoughts and feelings. The spiritual discipline of prayer usually involves extended periods of prayer or a regular prayer routine. Christians also make prayer requests of God so praying is also often done in groups with other Christians for themselves and others who need God's intervening so other's can agree with and support the person praying. See ([P] Prayer)

Silence: While prayer is talking with God, the spiritual discipline of silence is practiced to show reverence to God and to hear his voice (Psalm 46:10).

Solitude: The act of retreating to a place where you can be alone for a time. To refrain from interacting with others in order to be alone with God and be found by Him.

Meditation: Setting aside time to think upon God and His Word. Often focussing on a specific Bible phrase, verse or passage but can also be time set aside to think about God in general and about how He is moving in your life.

Reflection: Time spent on aligning our desires to God's desires, to grow in love for God, others, and self by looking into our own hearts.

Confession: Telling other brothers or sisters in Christ about struggles in your life, specifically in regards to sin. Almost always done with members of the same sex. Making the secrets known to remove the power that sin has on you and to provide accountability from the body of Christ.

These spiritual disciplines are not a requirement for salvation by any means but are ways Christians can become more like Christ by denying their human nature and drawing closer to God in various ways.

Resources

1. <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/scripture-engagement/scripture-memorization/home>
2. <https://www.soulshpherd.org/2012/07/spiritual-disciplines-list/>

Church Traditions

Theological Explanation



Overview a. Baptism **b.** Communion **c.** Tithing **d.** Baby Dedication **e.** Marriage **f.** Institution of the Family **g.** Feasts/Celebrations **h.** The Sabbath **i.** Church Discipline

Baptism: The 1st Sacrament outlined by Jesus. The Bible commands believer's who choose to follow Jesus to be baptized (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 2:41; 8:36-39; 9:18; 10:47; 16:33; 18:8; 19:5, Rom. 6:1-6; 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 6:1). While baptism is not a requirement for salvation (1 Cor. 1:17, Acts 16:30-31, Eph. 2:8-9), it is like a wedding band; when you wear it, it shows your heart and commitment. We are commanded to be baptized as an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Jesus.

Communion: The 2nd Sacrament outlined by Jesus. Also called the Lord's Supper, where consecrated bread and wine (or grape juice) are consumed as memorials of Christ's death or as symbols for the realization of a spiritual union between Christ and communicant, symbolic of the body and blood of Christ. Communion is observed by believer's on a regular basis, often on Sunday's or when the congregation meets together but can be observed at anytime regardless of the day of the week.

Tithing: Setting aside at least 1/10th of your income for the church and other ministries. Often done where you are being spiritually ministered to. This could also be considered a spiritual discipline to help give up any negative hold money could have on you. Also some consider tithing the giving of at least 1/10th of your talents and your time. The practice is seen in the Old Testament and while some in the church today feel that giving should be whatever each Christian feels lead to give, even below 10% of their income, the question remains why someone who professes Christ would not want to continue the practice of helping the Body of Christ spread the Gospel with at least what was given in Old Testament times. Tithing is for believers, not visitors of a church, and the money is often used to help pay ministry costs of operation.

Baby Dedication: 1 Samuel 1:11 "And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." Many parents in the church will dedicate their children to God, recognizing that they are a gift from God and that they want to raise them to serve God. This is not baby baptism which is a different tradition held by some denominations and arguably not Biblical.

Marriage: God created marriage as a partnership between one man and one woman. It can be seen in Genesis from the first man and first woman that God's intent for the marriage relationship was supposed to be a covenant between one man and one woman. While some argue that since polygamy is practiced in the Old Testament, it is evidence against a monogamous relationship between a man and woman being Biblical but God never ordains this practice of polygamy. God designed sex for married couples as the most intimate, personal expression of physical love and marriage actually mirrors God's covenant relationship with us. (Matt 19:4-5, Mk 10:6-8)

Institution of the Family: "This exciting union between husband and wife (Song of Solomon) should never be easily broken (1 Cor 7:12-16, Matt 5:32, 19:9). Though not a requirement, bringing into or taking care of children in this world is highly looked upon. Children are viewed as a gift from the Lord (Psa. 127:3)." (2)

Feasts/Celebrations: In Jewish tradition, there are various feasts and celebrations such as Passover, Pentecost, Purim, etc. which were observed in remembrance of God's provision for his chosen people or to celebrate significant aspects of God. Traditionally, Christians celebrate different aspects of God today such as Christmas (celebration of Jesus' birth), and Easter (celebration of Jesus' resurrection) which historically began as pagan holidays but are observed by Christians today to celebrate Jesus.

The Sabbath: "Originally, the Sabbath was a day of rest, and that purpose was retained in the Mosaic Law (Exodus 16:23-29; 31:14-16; 35:2-3; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Jeremiah 17:21-27). The Sabbath day would be the ideal day to have organized worship services. However, the New Testament does not command that the Sabbath be the day of worship. The church is not under the Mosaic Law. Traditionally, Christians have held their primary corporate worship services on Sundays, the first day of the week, in celebration of Christ's resurrection, which occurred on a Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1). It is important to understand, though, that Sunday is not the commanded day of corporate worship, either. There is no explicit biblical command that either Saturday or Sunday be the day of worship." (3)

Church Discipline: Church discipline should be done in a loving way with the intent to reconcile the individual back to fellowship with God and the church. There are several steps outlined by Jesus Himself which start privately and gradually become more public (Matthew 18:15-20). Church discipline is for believers and members of the church which the pastor and the church are responsible for the spiritual well-being of it's local members, not those who do not profess faith in Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:12). (4)

Resources

1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/marriage-Bible.html>
2. <http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2013/09/23/pro-family/>
3. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Sabbath-day-rest.html>
4. <https://www.gotquestions.org/church-discipline.html>

Overview a. The Universal Church (Denominations) **b.** 5 core beliefs that are basics for all Christians **c.** The Five Solas **d.** The 3 things that appear to be most important to God and the 3 levels of importance to Christians

The Universal Church

World Christianity consists of over 33,000 distinct denominations (World Christian Encyclopedia Vol. I, p. 16). While Christians may hold minor secondary beliefs that divide them denominationally (because we live in a fallen world), they are all part of the Body of Christ with the same core beliefs. Some who profess Christ forget we are really one Church in multiple locations. True followers of Christ are those who gave their lives to Christ as Lord and Saviour. The following 5 core beliefs align with true Christianity.

The 5 core beliefs held by Christians:

1. Scripture: It is entirely inerrant and sufficient for all Christian life.
2. The Trinity: God is one "What" and three "Whos" with each "Who" possessing all the attributes of Deity and personality.
3. The Person of Jesus Christ: Jesus is 100% God and 100% man for all eternity.
4. The Second Coming: Jesus Christ is coming bodily to earth to rule and judge.
5. Salvation: It is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation compared to the 5 core beliefs:

1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"): The Bible alone is our highest authority.
2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.

There are at least 3 things that are of the most importance to God; love, free will, and holiness.

One primary example of this can be seen in John 3:16-18

16 "For God so loved * the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes * * in him should not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned * * * already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

*We know love is important to God because He died to redeem us so we might be saved from sin.

**We know free will is important to God because He gives us the opportunity to choose His Son; to choose to spend eternity with Him, and this is evident even from the beginning when God created man and woman in the garden of Eden.

***And we know that holiness is important to God because those who do not choose to believe in Jesus don't just get a free pass, but condemn themselves to an eternity apart from God.

Among basic beliefs in theology, there seems to be 3 levels of importance for Christians;

A. Matters of Salvation – How one is saved, the most important. Jesus is God in the flesh. It is only through belief in Him that you can be saved. This is not by works but by faith.

B. Matters of Witnessing – Effecting salvation of others, second most important. Some beliefs can affect your witness to the lost and possibly the salvation of others. Such beliefs include the authority of Scripture, the role of Christians as missionaries, views on God's sovereignty and man's free will, etc...

C. All Other Beliefs – The least important. These are the denominational differences that seem to divide believers but are really trivial beliefs; the proper way to baptize, types of acceptable music, religious traditions, etc... While certain things may fall under the category of least important, that does not mean they are not important, it's just that perspective is key. Other theological stances on certain issues may inadvertently lead to violating categories A or B, for example: condoning homosexuality, gay marriage, or theistic evolution may seem innocent enough but by doing so, one would have to compromise on what Scripture says about those issues and could thus compromise the authority of Scripture leading to that person's effectiveness in witnessing. Also, taking something that falls under category C too far could effect one's witness, for example: if believers fight and argue about religious traditions instead of agreeing to disagree and acknowledge that traditions don't save people, only Jesus does – that can tarnish the view of the Body of Christ for those who observe this division.

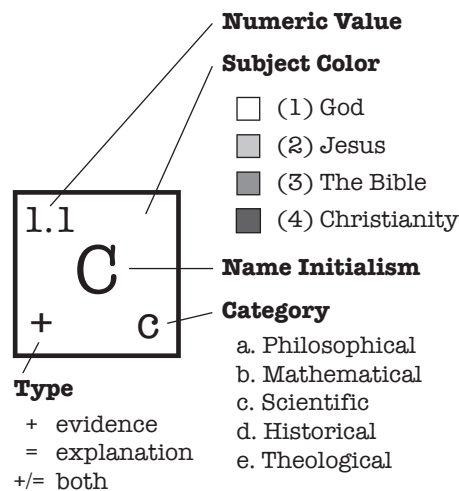
Resources

1. <http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/the-five-solas-of-the-protestant-reformation.html>
2. <https://carm.org/questions-about-theology>

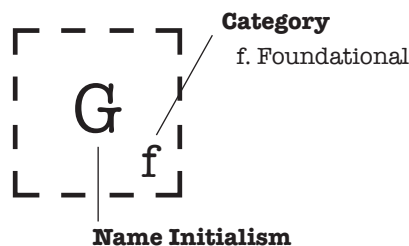
Instructions

How to use the Theologetic Table of the Evidence

Basic Element



Root Element



There are four subject groups of basic elements. These groups are represented by numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 as well as four different colors. The first subject group is for God and the existence of the divine providing arguments using evidence and logic, to show that an all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal Being exists and created everything in the universe. The second group points to affirmations for Jesus, listing multiple evidences that He is God's Eternal Son who lived, died and rose again to save humanity. The third group shows the evidence of the Bible's textual reliability, inerrancy, and divine inspiration to show that the Bible is more than a trustworthy source to base one's faith on. And the fourth group outlines the aspects of Christianity that skeptics may misrepresent or misunderstand to show how faith in the Bible, Jesus and God is the most logical belief and the basics of Christianity and of theology.

All the basic elements are each one of the 5 different categories represented by letters a - e. The categories are philosophical, mathematical, scientific, historical and theological.

In the Bottom left corner of the basic elements is the type of information of that element represented by either a +, = or both which means it is primarily (+) evidence, (=) an explanation of that subject or sometimes (+/=) both.

The root elements are for subjects that provide a foundation for the basic elements which means various basic elements use ideas and principles outlined in the root elements. These elements are represented with a dotted outline and the category "f" which stands for foundational.

All of the elements each have a name initialism of one or two letters that represent the name of the element.

Each element of the table can be clicked on which brings up the information for that element. There are also 3 different lists below the table (alphabetical, numerical and categorical) which show the same list of the elements organized in a different way and each item can also be clicked on to bring up those elements. The objections list is on a separate page which lists different questions and objections answered by specific elements which also link to those corresponding elements.

In the top right corner of each element page is the page number, a link titled Table that links back to the Theologetic Table and a link titled Analysis that a future release will link to a video giving further explanation about that element. In the bottom right corner of each element page is a link to Theologetics.org which is the organization that created the Theologetic Table.