

Evidence for God – The argument from design

“I don’t have enough faith to be an atheist” – Title of a book by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek
“There are no atheists in hell” – Homer Hailey

The bible assumes there is a God, it does not specifically go into proof for a God. Along the way, however, there are statements which the writers want their audience to consider about God.

Roman 1:20 – “For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity”

Psalm 19:1- “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”

Thus, the bible states that we can know (evidence) that there is a God and His power through the things that are made. The universe is assumed by bible writers to be a cosmos (the universe seen as a well-ordered whole) and not a chaos.

The argument can be illustrated by a story about Isaac Newton, the famous scientist who developed calculus and the laws of motion.

“Newton had finished the design of a scale model of our solar system. A very skilled craftsman then built it from Newton's plans. In the center was a large ball made of brass which represented the sun. Revolving around this sun were smaller balls attached to spokes of different lengths. These balls represented the planets, and the spokes placed them at the proper distances from the sun. All of these balls, representing Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, were in their proper order...These balls were all geared together so that when a crank on the front was turned, they all moved in their orbits around the sun.

One day Newton was in his study reading when his friend came to visit him. His friend saw the model and instantly recognized what it was. As he slowly cranked the model, he studied it closely. He said to Newton, "This is tremendous! Who made it?"

"Nobody," Newton answered without looking up from his book.

His friend turned to him with a confused look and said, "You must not have heard me. I asked, 'Who made this wonderful model?'"

Looking up, Newton said with a perfectly straight face, "Nobody made it. Those balls and gears just appeared and put themselves together!"

Source:

<https://www.wholesomewords.org/children/creation/whomadit.html#:~:text=Newton%20had%20spoken%20to%20his%20friend%20many%20times,of%20a%20scale%20model%20of%20our%20solar%20system.>

Design in the cosmos: Very few people deny that there is order in the universe and that there are laws which govern behavior of time/space/matter. The question is how or why there is order. Even those who do not believe in God sometimes go to great lengths to explain what they call “apparent design”. Stephen Hawking, the famous physicist who suffered with ALS is such an individual. He pointed out that many early scientists

believed that the order observed in the universe was the result of a God. Sir Isaac Newton believed that the order was “created by God at first and conserved by him to this Day in the same state and condition” (quoted in Stephen Hawking – The Grand Design p. 152). There are many factors which allow life on earth, including the mass of the sun (too massive and too much energy would be given off, and it would be too hot for life, not massive enough and it would be too cold for life), the way the earth rotates around the sun (almost a circle so we stay roughly the same distance from the sun all year- other planets don’t and there are extremes in temperature). Considering the forces that hold things together Hawking goes on to say, “Such calculations show that a change of as little as 0.5 percent in the strength of the strong nuclear force, or 4 percent in the electric force, would destroy either nearly all carbon or all oxygen in every star”. These are the elements needed for life.

Fred Hoyle, a great cosmologist and nuclear astrophysicist stated that “ I do not believe that any scientist who examined the evidence would fail to draw the inference that the laws of nuclear physics have been deliberately designed with regard to the consequences they produce inside the stars”

Hawking himself admits that “The laws of nature form a system that is extremely fine-tuned and very little in physical law can be altered without destroying the possibility of the development of life as we know it. Were it not for a series of startling coincidences in the precise details of physical law, it seems, humans and similar life-forms would never have come into being.” (The Grand Design p. 160)

He explains all of this (and other evidence of design) as the result of there being so many solar systems and so many dimensions in the universe that at least one would have the characteristics necessary for life “That means that in the same way that the environmental coincidences of our solar system were rendered unremarkable by the realization that billions of such systems exist, the fine tuning of the laws of nature can be explained by the existence of multiple universes. “

His argument is that – yes, it looks like things were designed, but they are the result of chance. There are so many that at least one must work out where both life is possible and life “evolved”.

Consider the likelihood of all of this happening. Remember that we are trying to show that it is more reasonable to believe than to disbelieve, we are considering the evidence as in a court case. Is it more reasonable to believe that all of this order “just happened” or that it was designed. If it was designed, there must be a designer. The Christian calls the designer God.

There are three possibilities for the universe

1. It has existed for eternity
2. It was created by an intelligent creator
3. It was the result of chance natural forces acting outside of the current laws of physics (The big bang theory)

Consider the implications of each of these –

1. Does the order of the universe match the idea that it has been around for eternity? (Do things run down as they age?)
2. If the big bang is true, then scientists must postulate that the current laws of physics did not apply then. The current laws only came into existence once “time” started.
3. If we are the result of irrational forces, is there any reason to think that my brain can “reason”? Does rationality come from irrationality?

4. Is there any basis for morality if there is no creator with a purpose for us? Is there any purpose to life at all?

Design in the cell – We are all familiar with DNA and that it is the code for life. The processes involved in replicating DNA are very complex and if errors occur, we get mutations – most of which are either fatal or impairs the organism. DNA is also responsible for the synthesis of proteins – molecules which tell different parts of our body “what to do”. These not only have to be chemically put together in the proper order, they must be shaped, so they will fit with other molecules to do their job. See https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=AwrEZ7n9IJFjPGwAQRYPxQt.;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3BpdnM-?p=signatureinthecell+animation+of+dna&type=1470476-vsub-ext01&hsimp=yhs-astrologydesk&hspart=litmus&ei=UTF-8&fr=yhs-litmus-astrologydesk#id=3&vid=e74e70743788be508f07b2b7e5fec03f&action=view