

HOME BIBLE STUDY

~ Lesson 1 ~

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN GOD?

Why should you or anyone believe in God? This question, when honestly asked, deserves an honest answer. Therefore, this study is written to point out some of the many, powerful and self-evident reasons for believing in God.

FACT 1: SOMETHING IS ETERNAL

We exist. No reasonable person denies the fact that we exist for this is "self-evident". A more reasonable question is: "How did we get here?" Where did the universe come from? How did it all start? Whether you believe in God or not, perhaps you have asked these very questions.

The fact that something exists tells us something. Consider a simple comparison. What is zero plus zero? It is always zero. If you start with nothing, then all you can ever have is nothing. Thus it is self-evident that: If there was ever a time when nothing existed, then nothing could possibly exist now.

Let's rephrase this. If you have an egg, what do you know? You know that somewhere there had to have been a chicken to produce the egg. You may not be sure what kind of chicken, how old it was or anything else about it. But you know SOMETHING produced that egg. Eggs do not happen by chance or explosions. In like manner, when we look at the universe it is reasonable to ask: "Where did it come from?"

Did you know that there are laws of nature that lead us to ask this question as well? These laws are called by scientists "the laws of thermodynamics." One such law of nature is "the law of conservation." This says that nothing in nature creates or destroys matter. Things may change shape or form, but the total amount of matter stays the same. Water turns into steam and disappears,

wood burns producing light, smoke, ash, etc. The materials involved are no longer in the shape we saw at first, but they still exist. Since matter is not being created or destroyed, we can rightly conclude that the universe did NOT create itself. It does not have that ability.

Thus, this fact demands that something be eternal, that something has always existed. Personally, I believe that God created the universe. By the evidence I have seen, only God is great enough to make all the things that exist. Yet, there are atheists who do not believe in an eternal God. These believe in an eternal universe. Both "believe" and "have faith" in something eternal. The question is which faith is correct? Either matter has always existed OR an eternal God created it all. Both cannot be right.

FACT 2: A SUFFICIENT CAUSE

A second aspect of nature is that everything has a sufficient cause. This is "the law of causality." When we see anything happen, we know that what ever caused it had to have enough power and ability to produce the result. For example, if I lit a match and the house blew up. Would anyone believe for a moment that the match, by itself, was a sufficient cause? No. Anyone with common sense would see that SOMETHING ELSE and something GREATER than the match caused this. There had to be an explosive gas, dynamite, or something of that nature to produce such a large explosion. Nature DEMANDS this be true.

Hand in hand with this law, is "the law of entropy." This law states that nature is "winding down." This, again, is self-evident. When men build a car, what happens to it over time? It deteriorates, corrodes, rusts and decays. It takes intelligence and ability to make it as well as to maintain it. This is true of all things in nature. Over all, the universe is not building more energy and more complexity, rather it is deteriorating, spreading out, winding down. Yet, evolutionists teach that nature is "getting better" and getting more advanced over time and that mankind is the pinnacle of evolutionary progress. Which will you believe? Will you accept the facts and

laws of nature or the theories of men who contradict nature?

So, can we say that nature is eternal? No. Since nature is slowing down and cannot "wind itself up"; it must have been set in motion by a sufficient cause. Someone or something greater than nature had to make it what it is. Only God is powerful enough to cause this. Thus, nature bears witness to the existence of God.

FACT 3: THE UNIVERSE SHOWS DESIGN

Nature also teaches us about order and design. Take a look at the world around you. Do you see anything orderly and complex about it? How do the plants know to grow in spring? How does a seed know to produce corn, rather than a tulip? How do bees know to search for pollen? How is it that many plants depend on the bees to be pollinated?

How does a single fertilized cell in the womb of a woman develop into a full-grown human being, with arms, ears, lungs, a heart, and a brain? Where did all that information and design that is stored in a cell come from? It has been said that one living cell has more information in it than the entire library of congress. Folks, that is a BIG library. Did all these things happen by chance? No. It is pure fantasy to think that such can happen by accident. When I point to my watch or to a computer, would you believe me if I said they were the result of an explosion and great lengths of time? Yet, that is exactly what some want us to believe about the universe.

Classes in chemistry, botany, biology all testify to the complexity and orderliness of nature. In addition to this orderliness of nature we can consider a computer. It is something that requires intelligence to design and ability to make. Yet, for all the technological wonders we have today - it cannot compare to the human brain. The brain processes a huge amount of information, grows (as does the rest of our bodies) from that single fertilized egg cell in the womb, and only requires a few watts of electricity to run! Can we honestly believe that it is the result of time and chance, while the computer is the result of intelligent design? Where design is present,

we know that there must be a designer. Again, nature bears witness to the existence of God.

FACT 4: THE EXISTENCE OF LIFE

Now consider the existence of life. Nature tells us of "the law of biogenesis." What this means is that life can only come from existing life. What is the only way to get a calf? You have to get a bull and a cow together. What is the only way you will get corn to grow? You have to plant living seed. In contrast, would you believe me if I said my chickens "just appeared"? Or would you accept that when you mix the proper chemicals together and zap it with the right amount of electricity - you get kittens? Even without knowing all the fancy scientific names, you know this basic rule of nature. Life comes from life.

Consider the milk container in your refrigerator. It has been "pasteurized." What does this mean? It means that all bacteria and living organisms have been eliminated and then the bottle was sealed. Now, when that bottle is sealed, can anything "spontaneously" come to life inside it? No. The milk may go bad while unopened, but you will not find anything living in it until you open it and allow germs or bacteria in! Thus, Luis Pasteur (1822-1895) proved by his experiments that life does NOT spontaneously come into being. Real science proves that life does not "just happen".

Now consider what evolutionists tell us. They say that the universe was all dust, dirt and disorder. And then, from this barren and dead universe - life just happened. Pure luck. And then, that life advanced and grew and became more complex. Just by accident. Somehow it developed legs, wings, eyes, ears, brains, etc. All by chance. From the biggest whale in the ocean down to the tiniest bacteria that live in the frozen arctic regions - it all "just happened". And all that from lifeless dirt and non-living material.

So, how did life come into existence? Could it really have been just chance and a big explosion? While evolutionists teach that there is no such thing as a miracle, yet they evidently believe in what is impossible through

nature. For they tell us that life "spontaneously generated" itself. In other words, they claim: "It just happened." Now, who believes in miracles? Again, nature bears witness to God.

FACT 5: THE PERSONALITY OF MAN

Do animals feel guilty for taking food from other animals? Do animals call a jury of their peers when the lion eats the monkey? Do the baboons have a prison system for those of their kind that do "wrong"? Obviously not. While we live in this physical world, yet we are somehow different from mere animals.

You and I have a conscience. We have a personality that appreciates beauty and kindness, that is self-aware, that even thinks on spiritual things. Mere animals do not do this. Ever see donkeys assemble for prayer? Ever hear of a great piece of artwork being admired by fish? No. Mankind is different.

Now remember that if you have an egg, you know that something had to produce that egg. When you look at man (his intelligence, his conscience, his tendency to worship, his personality), ask yourself: "How did I come to be what I am?" Time and chance cannot answer that. The laws of nature shout that they cannot make you what you are. The only sufficient cause for man's existence is an Eternally Living and Intelligent Personality. As it is written, God is "the Father of spirits" (Heb. 12:9). Friend, there is a part of you that is made in God's image (Gen. 1:26). Your existence is evidence of God's existence.

CONCLUSION

These are some of the self-evident truths, which show that it is more reasonable to believe in God than evolution. If you do not believe in God, then how can you explain the laws of nature? How can you explain the design and order that exists? How can you explain the existence of life? How can you explain that you are here, reading this paper? How can you explain that you are not acting based on instinct, like an animal, but are aware of your own existence? The only sufficient answer is that God is and that He

made you. This is the answer that nature itself points to.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night shows knowledge. There is no speech nor language; their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world." (Psalm 19:1-4)

"For the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and Divine nature; that they may be without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

Please note that all men are "without excuse". There is enough evidence in nature to cause man to look for God. If we choose not to look, then we cannot blame God when He judges us as sinners. Friends, seek Him! If you do so with an honest heart, then God will provide opportunity for you to learn more truth, as it is written: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matt. 7:7-8)

A door of opportunity is opened for you today. Will you accept it?

Please complete the Home Bible Study questions page, then send it in to be checked. After checking it, we will return it with the next lesson in the series. Also, if you have any questions, please write them down and let us know. We are here to serve you and will point to the Bible for the answer to all things.

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