

I. Intro

- A. Is it even important to apply logic and reason to God?
 - 1. Yes - Satan constantly challenges us on every front, including logic
 - 2. Yes - It strengthens our faith
 - 3. Yes - It gives us answers for others
 - 4. Yes - God welcomes reason and investigation
- B. We are not called to have a blind faith ("just believe it without thinking about it")
- C. I Pet 3:15
 - 1. "Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully." AMPC
- D. Takeaways
 - 1. Grow in your personal faith
 - 2. Grow your kids' faith: teach these things to your kids!!
 - 3. Use to tear down walls others put up with God
 - 4. Face the implications of God's existence

II. What kind of God?

- A. Why ask?
 - 1. People mean many different things by "God"
 - 2. A misunderstanding of God can easily lead to unbelief.
 - a) Richard Dawkins writes "I have found it an amusing strategy, when asked whether I am an atheist, to point out that the questioner is also an atheist when considering Zeus, Apollo, Amon Ra, Mithras, Baal, Thor, Wotan, the Golden Calf and the Flying Spaghetti Monster. I just go one god further." I don't believe in any god like this either!
 - b) The God of the Bible is totally unlike any of these. He is:
 - (1) Self-existing - uncaused, not caused by another
 - (2) Infinite - unlimited, completely maximized
 - (3) Immaterial - transcends matter, not made of matter
 - (4) Spaceless - transcends space
 - (5) Timeless - transcends time, eternal, no beginning or end
 - (6) Omnipotent - all powerful, can do anything logically possible
 - (7) Omnipresent - everywhere present
 - (8) Omniscient - all knowing; knows all actual and possible states of affairs
 - (9) Immutable - changeless; standard of everything
 - (10) Holy - morally perfect, the definition of morality
 - (11) Personal - has mind, emotion, will, makes choices
 - (12) Source - caused the time, space, matter, energy
 - (13) Sustainer - sustains time, space, matter, energy
 - c) This is what the Bible means by "God".

III. 3 Questions

- A. What's the best explanation for the cause of the universe?
 - 1. Logical format
 - a) Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
 - b) The universe had a beginning.
 - c) Therefore, the universe had a Cause.
 - 2. Breakdown
 - a) Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
 - (1) The Law of Causality
 - (2) You, your parents, your car, mountains, anything you can think of
 - (3) The foundation of science, required for rational thought: thoughts (causes) -> conclusions (effects)
 - (4) Nothing causes itself
 - b) The universe had a beginning; it's impossible for it to be eternal
 - (1) Logically:

- (a) If you had an infinite number of days before today, you'd never get to today
- (2) Scientifically:
 - (a) Einstein's General Relativity
 - (b) Second Law of Thermodynamics
 - i) There's an unchanging amount of energy in the universe
 - ii) 2L shows the universe is using up all usable energy
 - iii) An infinite past means the universe would be out of usable energy by now
 - iv) e.g. the universe, like a car, has only so much gas and is using it up. If a car had been running infinitely long already, it would be out of gas
- c) Therefore, the universe had a Cause.
 - (1) Einstein's general relativity tells us space, time, and matter are all related.
 - (2) The universe's cause must have created space, time, and matter simultaneously.
 - (3) Therefore, the Cause must come from outside all three:
 - (a) It must be IMMATERIAL to create MATTER
 - (b) It must be SPACELESS to create SPACE
 - (c) It must be TIMELESS to create TIME
 - (d) It must be POWERFUL to create everything
 - (e) It must be PERSONAL to choose to create
 - (f) It must be INTELLIGENT to create it so precisely
 - (g) Who does that sound like?
 - (4) BONUS: What created God?
 - (a) God had no beginning, so He needs no cause. He is uncaused.
 - (b) Beginnings imply time; He invented time.
 - (c) That's a category mistake, like "what does the color blue sound like?"
- 3. Christianity:
 - a) God is the First Cause: He created something out of nothing.
- 4. Atheism:
 - a) The universe has no cause: no one created something out of nothing.
 - b) Or, the universe caused itself (?)
 - (1) Why don't many things cause themselves all the time, out of nothing? Money, pizza, Teslas, etc
 - c) These are articles of faith! Great faith.
 - d) Counter-arguments
 - (1) Quantum physics explanation (Lawrence Kress) - doesn't start with true nothing, it starts with "quantum stuff" and doesn't explain what caused that
 - (2) Multiple universe explanation: what caused the start of all the universes?
- 5. Conclusion:
 - a) "Either *no one* created something out of nothing, or *someone* created something out of nothing. Which view is more reasonable?" - Frank Turek
- B. What's the best explanation for the precision of the universe?
 - 1. Logical format
 - a) Every design had a designer.
 - b) The universe has a highly complex design.
 - c) Therefore, the universe had a Designer.
 - 2. The universe has a highly complex design.
 - a) For a Falcon 9 to land, an extremely specific set of circumstances must happen.
 - (1) They don't hope it will land! They have to design it to.
 - (2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvim4rsNHkQ>
 - b) For the universe, our planet, and life to exist at all, an extremely specific set of circumstances must be perfectly aligned. Hugh Ross identifies 122.

- b) It's 100% subjective. What standard do you appeal to?
- c) You have no ability or reason to condemn anyone for anything. Hitler, murderers, no one.
- d) If we're all just molecules, just purposeless products of evolution "dancing to our DNA," all morality is subjective. It's a matter of opinion. No one can help what they do.
- e) Obviously atheists are nice, they don't live this way. They borrow morality from God.
- f) The best explanation for morality is that God defines it.

IV. Conclusion

- A. "Either *no one* created something out of nothing, or *someone* created something out of nothing. Which view is more reasonable?" - Frank Turek
- B. What's the best explanation for the precision of the universe?
- C. What's the best explanation for the existence of morality, and what's the best basis for it?
- D. Again
 - 1. We are not called to have a blind faith ("just believe it without thinking about it")
 - 2. I Pet 3:15
 - a) "Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully." AMPC
 - 3. Takeaways
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