

STAGE: SKEPTIC

FIVE PROOFS OF GOD

PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENTS FOR HIS EXISTENCE

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

Five Powerful Logical Arguments Demonstrating God's Existence Through Reason and Evidence

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Philosophical Arguments for God's Existence

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INTRODUCTION

Christianity Is Not a Blind Leap in the Dark

It's a faith supported by evidence, logic, and reason.

For centuries, philosophers, theologians, and rational thinkers have developed compelling logical arguments demonstrating God's existence. These arguments show that belief in God isn't anti-intellectual or unreasonable—it's supported by the best philosophical and empirical evidence available.

What These Arguments Accomplish:

- Demonstrate God's existence using reason alone
- Show that faith and reason work together
- Address the most serious philosophical objections
- Provide intellectual foundation for Christian belief

The Central Truth:

God's existence is not only plausible—it's the best explanation for reality itself.

MAIN THESIS

“Come now, let us reason together — Isaiah 1:18”

The Bible itself invites rational inquiry into God’s existence. These five powerful arguments systematically demonstrate that:

- Everything that begins to exist has a cause
- The universe displays evidence of design
- God’s existence is necessary and self-evident
- Objective moral values require a moral foundation
- Contingent beings require a necessary being

Together, these arguments form an overwhelming case for God’s existence.

ARGUMENT 1 — THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Overview

The Cosmological Argument is one of the oldest and most powerful proofs for God's existence. It's based on a simple but profound observation: **everything that begins to exist has a cause**.

The Three Premises

Premise 1: Everything That Begins to Exist Has a Cause

The Argument:

Statement	Explanation
Events don't cause themselves	Self-causation involves existing before you exist (logical contradiction)
Causality is universal	We never observe something coming from nothing
Science confirms this	The law of causality is foundational to all science

Why This Is Obvious:

Think about your own existence. You didn't cause yourself—your parents did. Your parents didn't cause themselves—their parents did. There must be a first cause, or else we have an infinite regress of causes, which is impossible.

Premise 2: The Universe Began to Exist

Scientific Evidence:

Discovery	Implication
The Big Bang	Universe had a beginning ~13.8 billion years ago
The Second Law of Thermodynamics	Universe is "winding down," implies it had a start
Expansion of the Universe	Universe is not eternal; it's expanding from a point
Radiation Background	Remnant radiation from the initial expansion confirms beginning

Philosophical Evidence:

- An infinite regress of causes is impossible (Aristotle)
- An infinite number of actual events cannot exist
- An infinite series has no beginning, but the universe clearly began

Premise 3: Therefore, the Universe Has a Cause

The Logical Conclusion:

- Everything that begins to exist has a cause (Premise 1)
- The universe began to exist (Premise 2)
- The universe has a cause (Conclusion from 1 & 2)

Identifying the Cause**What must this cause possess?**

Attribute	Reason
Eternal	Must not need a cause itself
Powerful	Created the entire universe from nothing
Personal	Must make a free choice to create
Immaterial	Existed before physical matter
Intelligent	Created an ordered universe
Unique	Only one such being is necessary

This description perfectly matches the traditional definition of God.

Deep Dive: Cosmological Argument Analysis**Historical Development**

Thomas Aquinas formulated the First Way (Cosmological Argument):

“It is necessary to arrive at a first mover, put in motion by no other; and this everyone understands to be God.”

Gottfried Leibniz modernized the argument:

“Why is there something rather than nothing?”

Contemporary Versions

William Lane Craig’s Kalam Cosmological Argument:

- Whatever begins to exist has a cause
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore, the universe has a cause
- If the universe has a cause, that cause is God
- Therefore, God exists

Responses to Key Objections

Objection 1: “Who caused God?”

Response: The argument only applies to things that begin to exist. God, by definition, is eternal and necessary—He doesn’t begin to exist. Asking “Who caused God?” commits a category error.

Objection 2: “Quantum mechanics shows things can come from nothing”

Response: Quantum fluctuations occur within quantum fields, which already exist. “Nothing” in quantum mechanics isn’t true nothingness—it’s the quantum vacuum. The question remains: why does anything exist at all?

Objection 3: “The Big Bang was just a natural event”

Response: Even if the Big Bang was natural, it was an event—and events require causes. The question isn’t “natural vs. supernatural,” but “what caused the initial event?”

ARGUMENT 2 — THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (DESIGN)

Overview

The Teleological Argument observes that the universe displays extraordinary evidence of design, similar to how we recognize design in human artifacts.

The Argument from Design

The Basic Structure:

Element	Explanation
Observation	The universe is fine-tuned for life
Premise	Things that are designed exhibit order and purpose
Conclusion	The universe was designed by an intelligent being
Identification	That being is God

Two Forms of the Design Argument

1. The Argument from Order (Paley's Watch)

William Paley (1802):

"In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone, and were asked how the stone came to be there; I might possibly answer, that, for anything I knew to the contrary, it had lain there forever... But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground. ... The watch must have had a maker."

Application to the Universe:

The universe displays far more complexity and order than a watch. Unlike a watch, the universe contains:

- Billions of galaxies
- Trillions of stars
- Millions of species
- Conscious beings capable of thought

If a watch requires a maker, how much more does the universe?

2. The Argument from Fine-Tuning

The Fine-Tuning of Physical Constants:

The universe contains fundamental constants—numbers that must have specific values for life to exist:

Physical Constants Requiring Fine-Tuning:

Constant	Range for Life	Actual Value	Probability
Strong Nuclear Force	Within 2%	Precisely set	1 in 10^{60}
Weak Nuclear Force	Within 1%	Precisely set	1 in 10^{100}
Cosmological Constant	Within 1 in 10^{120}	Precisely set	1 in 10^{120}
Gravity	Within 1%	Precisely set	1 in 10^{60}
Proton-Electron Mass Ratio	Within 0.1%	Precisely set	1 in 10^{40}

What Fine-Tuning Means:

If the Strong Nuclear Force were 2% stronger:

- No hydrogen would exist
- No water
- No organic chemistry
- No life

If the Cosmological Constant were 1 part different in 10^{120} :

- Universe would collapse or expand too rapidly
- No galaxies would form
- No stars
- No planets
- No life

The Odds:

Physicist Roger Penrose calculated: **1 in $10^{10^{123}}$**

This is a 1 followed by 10^{123} zeros—**larger than the number of atoms in the observable universe!**

Deep Dive: Teleological Argument Analysis

The Multiverse Objection

The Claim:

“Maybe there are countless universes, and we just happen to be in one with the right constants.”

Problems with Multiverse:

- **No evidence** — Other universes are unobservable
- **Explanation pushed back** — What explains the multiverse generator?
- **Still requires fine-tuning** — Even a multiverse needs laws to generate life-permitting universes
- **Violates parsimony** — Positing infinite unobservable universes is less parsimonious than one Designer
- **Special pleading** — Why is the multiverse not fine-tuned?

Alternative Explanations

Explanation 1: Chance

Problem: The odds are so astronomical that chance becomes unreasonable. We don't accept "chance" to explain other highly improbable events.

Explanation 2: Natural Law

Problem: What explains the laws? Why do laws permit life? This pushes the question back without answering it.

Explanation 3: Divine Design

Advantages:

- Explains fine-tuning naturally
- Explains why intelligent observers exist
- Requires no unobservable entities
- Is based on observable cause-and-effect patterns

The Inference to the Best Explanation:

When we observe specified complexity (like the constants of physics), we always infer design. Archaeologists don't attribute artifact complexity to chance. Computer programmers don't think code writes itself. Why should we treat the universe differently?

ARGUMENT 3 — THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Overview

The Ontological Argument is unique—it attempts to prove God’s existence from the very concept of God alone, without reference to the physical world.

The Classical Formulation

Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109):

“That than which nothing greater can be conceived”

The Argument Summarized:

Step	Statement
1	God is defined as “that than which nothing greater can be conceived”
2	Existence is greater than non-existence
3	Therefore, God must exist (otherwise something greater could be conceived)

The Logical Form:

P1: God is the greatest conceivable being

P2: Existence is a great-making property

P3: A being that exists is greater than one that doesn’t

P4: If God is the greatest conceivable being, God must possess all great-making properties

P5: Existence is a great-making property

∴ Therefore, God exists

Contemporary Formulation

Alvin Plantinga’s Modal Ontological Argument:

- It is possible that a maximally great being exists
- If it’s possible that a maximally great being exists, then it’s possible in some possible world
- If it’s possible in some possible world, then it exists in all possible worlds
- If it exists in all possible worlds, it exists in the actual world
- Therefore, a maximally great being exists (in reality)

The Logic of Possible Worlds:

Concept	Meaning
Necessary Being	Exists in all possible worlds
Contingent Being	Exists in some possible worlds, not others
Great-Making Property	Property that contributes to greatness (knowledge, power, goodness)

Why This Matters:

A maximally great being would possess:

- Omnipotence (in all possible worlds)
- Omniscience (in all possible worlds)
- Moral perfection (in all possible worlds)

Such a being is precisely the God of traditional theism.

Objections to the Ontological Argument

Immanuel Kant's Objection:

"Existence is not a predicate (not a property that makes something greater)"

Plantinga's Response:

Existence isn't a predicate in the traditional sense, but maximal greatness logically requires existence. A being that has all perfections but doesn't exist is a contradiction.

The Uniqueness of the Ontological Argument:

Unlike other arguments, the Ontological Argument:

- Requires no empirical premises
- Works purely from logical analysis
- Moves from the concept of God to His existence
- Demonstrates God's necessity, not contingency

ARGUMENT 4 — THE MORAL ARGUMENT

Overview

If **objective moral values exist, then God must exist**. This argument observes that we experience objective morality and asks: what best explains it?

The Argument Formulated

The Structure:

- Objective moral values exist
- If objective moral values exist, God must exist
- Therefore, God exists

What Are Objective Moral Values?

Objective = True regardless of what anyone believes

Moral = Concerning right and wrong

Values = Standards, principles, obligations

Evidence for Objective Morality

1. Moral Realism (Our Experience)

Intuition	Implication
Murder is wrong	Not just wrong-for-me; it's actually wrong
Slavery was wrong	Not wrong only by modern standards; it was always wrong
Torture of innocents is wrong	Not subjective; objectively immoral

2. Moral Progress

If morality were purely subjective, we couldn't speak of "moral progress."

- The abolition of slavery represents moral progress
- The extension of rights represents moral progress
- But progress implies we're getting closer to objective truth

3. Moral Disagreement

People disagree about morality, but:

- We don't think disagreement means morality is subjective
- Scientists disagree about physics, but physics is objective
- Moral disagreement presupposes moral objectivity

4. Moral Obligation

We experience moral obligations as binding and universal:

- “I ought to tell the truth” (not just prefer it)
- “Everyone ought to keep promises” (not just some people)
- These feel like genuine obligations, not preferences

What Explains Objective Morality?

Option 1: Evolution

The Claim: Morality evolved as a survival mechanism.

Problems:

- Evolution explains preferences, not objective values
- If morality is just survival advantage, there’s no real obligation
- We often sacrifice survival advantage for morality (self-sacrifice)
- Evolution can’t ground “ought” statements

Option 2: Society/Convention

The Claim: Morality is created by society.

Problems:

- Then slavery would have been morally right in societies where it was legal
- We couldn’t criticize a society’s morality as “wrong”
- Moral reformers would be irrational (challenging society’s standards)
- Can’t explain why society should care about certain values

Option 3: Personal Preference

The Claim: Morality is just individual preference.

Problems:

- Then “I like murder” and “Murder is wrong” would both be true
- We couldn’t have moral disagreements (just different preferences)
- Contradicts our experience of moral objectivity
- Makes morality completely arbitrary

Option 4: God

The Claim: Moral values are grounded in God’s nature.

Advantages:

- Explains objective morality (grounded in a necessary being)

- Explains moral obligations (grounded in God's authority)
- Explains universal morality (God's nature is unchanging)
- Explains why morality matters (it concerns our ultimate purpose)

The Euthyphro Dilemma

Plato's Question: Are things good because God commands them, or does God command them because they're good?

Theistic Response: God's commands and God's nature are identical. God doesn't command good things arbitrarily; God's nature is goodness itself. Therefore:

- Morality is objective (grounded in God's nature)
- Morality is authoritative (backed by God's power)
- Morality is binding (obligatory for all)

ARGUMENT 5 — THE CONTINGENCY ARGUMENT

Overview

The Contingency Argument, refined by philosopher Leibniz, asks the fundamental question: **Why is there something rather than nothing?**

The Argument

The Basic Structure:

Element	Explanation
Observation	The universe and everything in it is contingent
Definition	A contingent being is one that could have failed to exist
Logic	Contingent beings require explanation
Conclusion	There must be a necessary being to explain contingent beings
Identification	That being is God

Two Types of Beings

Contingent Beings:

- Could have failed to exist
- Depend on other things for their existence
- Are limited and finite
- Examples: You, me, atoms, galaxies

Necessary Beings:

- Must exist (couldn't have failed to exist)
- Depend on nothing else for existence
- Are unlimited and infinite
- Cannot not exist

The Principle: Contingent beings can't explain their own existence.

Why There Can't Be an Infinite Regression

The Problem:

If we have contingent being A, it requires explanation (B). If B is contingent, it requires explanation (C). If C is contingent, it requires explanation (D). ... and so on.

The Solution:

An infinite chain of contingent beings explains nothing. Each link requires explanation, but the chain as a whole has no explanation.

Think of it like asking: “Who wrote this book?”

- Answer: “Author A”
- “Who is Author A?” — “That’s Author B”
- “Who is Author B?” — “That’s Author C”
- “Who is Author C?” — “That’s Author D”
- “Who is Author D?” — “That’s Author E”
- ...and so on infinitely

We never get an explanation! To get an explanation, we must eventually reach someone who can explain the entire chain. That someone must exist necessarily—they must be self-explaining.

Why God Is the Necessary Being

A necessary being would have:

Attribute	Reason
Aseity	Complete self-sufficiency; depends on nothing
Eternity	Exists necessarily; cannot cease to exist
Infinity	Unlimited in power and knowledge
Ultimacy	Is the ground of all other existence

This perfectly describes God as traditionally understood.

The Modal Logic Formulation:

P1: Contingent beings exist

P2: Contingent beings have explanations

P3: The explanation is either internal or external

P4: The explanation cannot be internal (self-causation is impossible)

P5: The explanation cannot be an infinite regress of contingencies

P6: Therefore, there must be an external, necessary explanation

P7: That necessary explanation is a necessary being

∴ Therefore, God exists as a necessary being

OBJECTIONS & RESPONSES

Objection 1: “These arguments are too abstract”

Response:

The arguments move from observable facts (the universe exists, design is evident, morality is real) to reasonable conclusions (God exists). Abstract philosophy grounds concrete reality. The laws of physics are abstract; does that make them unreal?

Objection 2: “These arguments don’t prove the Christian God”

Response:

True, these arguments prove theism (God exists), not specifically Christianity. But:

- They establish that God exists
- Christianity begins with belief in God
- Other arguments (historical, biblical) demonstrate Jesus and Christianity specifically
- Together, they form a cumulative case

Objection 3: “Science disproves these arguments”

Response:

Science and philosophy operate in different domains:

- Science describes how the universe works
- Philosophy asks why anything exists at all
- Science presupposes laws; philosophy asks who made the laws
- The most cutting-edge physics (Big Bang, fine-tuning) actually supports these arguments

Objection 4: “Atheism is more rational”

Response:

Let’s compare explanatory power:

Question	Theism	Atheism
Why does anything exist?	God created it	No answer provided
Why is universe fine-tuned?	God designed it	Multiverse (unseen)
Why do we have morality?	God grounds it	Evolutionary accident
Why is there order in physics?	God established it	Brute fact (unjustified)

Question	Theism	Atheism
Why can we understand reality?	We're made in God's image	Unjustified (Darwinism predicts irrationality)

Theism provides better explanations across the board.

FAITH AND REASON

The False Dichotomy

Many people present a false choice: **faith OR reason**

But the classical Christian view sees faith and reason as **complementary**:

Historical Christian Thinkers on Faith & Reason:

Augustine:

“I believe in order that I may understand — Reason and faith work together”

Thomas Aquinas:

“Grace perfects nature; it does not destroy it — Reason is a gift from God”

C.S. Lewis:

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else”

How They Work Together

- **Reason** establishes the existence of God
- **Faith** accepts God’s revelation in Jesus
- **Reason** examines the reasonableness of Christian claims
- **Faith** trusts in God’s character and promises

The Role of Philosophical Arguments:

These arguments **remove obstacles to faith**:

- Show that belief in God is rational
- Demonstrate that Christianity isn’t anti-intellectual
- Provide intellectual grounding for conviction
- Answer skeptical objections

They don’t replace faith; they prepare the way for it.

CONCLUSION: A REASONABLE FAITH

The Cumulative Case

No single argument is absolutely decisive, but together they form a powerful case:

Argument	Demonstrates
Cosmological	Something rather than nothing
Teleological	Design and purpose
Ontological	Necessary existence
Moral	Objective values
Contingency	Ultimate ground of being

Each argument, from a different angle, points to God's existence.

The Verdict

Christianity is not a blind leap in the dark. It's a faith supported by:

- Powerful philosophical arguments
- Historical evidence (resurrection of Jesus)
- Scientific discovery (Big Bang, fine-tuning)
- Personal experience (transformed lives)
- Moral intuition (objective values)

The Invitation

"Come now, let us reason together — Isaiah 1:18"

You're invited to:

- **Think** — Examine these arguments carefully
- **Question** — Challenge your assumptions
- **Investigate** — Look at the evidence
- **Reason** — Use your God-given intellect
- **Believe** — Come to faith grounded in truth

APPENDIX: QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The Five Arguments at a Glance

1. Cosmological Argument

- **Formula:** Effect (universe) requires cause → That cause is God
- **Strength:** Scientifically supported by Big Bang
- **Philosophers:** Aristotle, Aquinas, Leibniz, Craig

2. Teleological Argument

- **Formula:** Design requires designer → Universe is designed → God exists
- **Strength:** Fine-tuning is mathematically overwhelming
- **Philosophers:** Paley, Hume, contemporary cosmologists

3. Ontological Argument

- **Formula:** God's existence follows from His concept
- **Strength:** Pure logical reasoning
- **Philosophers:** Anselm, Descartes, Plantinga

4. Moral Argument

- **Formula:** Objective morality requires moral ground → God grounds morality
- **Strength:** Accords with moral experience
- **Philosophers:** C.S. Lewis, William Lane Craig, Russ Shafer-Landau

5. Contingency Argument

- **Formula:** Contingent beings require necessary being → That being is God
- **Strength:** Addresses fundamental metaphysical questions
- **Philosophers:** Leibniz, Aquinas, contemporary metaphysicians

Major Philosophers Who Affirm God's Existence

Historical:

- Plato (428–348 BC)
- Aristotle (384–322 BC)
- Augustine (354–430 AD)
- Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)
- Descartes (1596–1650)
- Leibniz (1646–1716)

- Hegel (1770–1831)

Contemporary:

- William Lane Craig (philosopher, theologian)
- Alvin Plantinga (philosopher of religion)
- Robert Adams (metaphysics, ethics)
- Peter Kreeft (philosophy)
- Edward Feser (Aristotelian metaphysics)

Resources for Further Study**Books:**

- *Five Proofs of God's Existence* — Edward Feser
- *The Cosmological Argument* — William Lane Craig
- *God Is* — Alvin Plantinga
- *Reasonable Faith* — William Lane Craig
- *The Case for the Creator* — Lee Strobel

Online Resources:

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (proofs of God)
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (theism articles)
- Reasonable Faith (williamlanecraig.com)
- Discovering Arguments for God

Debates:

- William Lane Craig vs. Atheist Philosophers
- Plantinga on God and Logic
- The Problem of Evil and Divine Goodness

CLOSING WORD

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made. — Romans 1:20 (NIV)”

FAITH AND REASON WORK TOGETHER — REASON LEADS TO FAITH

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