

BELIEF IN GOD? PART ONE

Goal of this lesson: To show that it is very reasonable and wise to believe in God.

Consider these truths:

All men have a conscience or a moral sense of right and wrong regardless of their having heard the Gospel or not (Romans 1: 20). "This excludes man from being merely a conditioned creature or a blob of protoplasm. Man did not ooze out but is made in the image of God (Genesis 1: 26). This conscience of man cannot be adequately explained on a naturalistic basis. If man were merely a product of natural forces, how does one explain the moral consciousness of man? It cannot be explained apart from God."¹

The universe operates by uniform laws of nature. Where did these laws come from? Why does the universe not change randomly? Why should there be any laws at all? It makes sense to say that God created the laws and set them in motion so they are consistent and not random. These laws include the Law of Life or Biogenesis (life comes from life), the Law of Chemistry, the Laws of Planetary Motion, the Law of Physics, Universal Constants, the Anthropic Principle, the Laws of Mathematics, and The Laws of Logic. Dr. Jason Lisle says, "*God created the laws of physics in just the right way so that the laws of chemistry would be correct, so that life can exist. It is doubtful that any human would have been able to solve such a complex puzzle. Yet, God has done so. The atheist cannot account for these laws of nature, even though he agrees that they must exist, for such laws are inconsistent with naturalism. Yet they are perfectly consistent with the Bible. We expect the universe to be organized in a logical, orderly fashion and to obey uniform laws because the universe was created by the power of God.*"²

The information in the DNA. Where does this information come from? Why is it organized? It seems that there must have been someone who designed it. We believe this was God.³

Jesus coming to this earth, living, dying and rising from the dead not only proves God's existence but proves that he loves us very much, enough to give his only son to die for us (John 3: 16). By looking at Jesus we see who God is (John 1: 18; 14: 9).

The existence of the Bible. The Bible has stood the test of time against much persecution (1 Peter 1: 24).

The fine tuning of the universe speaks loudly for a creator. One writer says that, "*there are more than thirty separate physical or cosmological parameters that require precise calibration in order to produce a life-sustaining universe.*"⁴ One of the foremost modern proponents of this argument is Robin Collins, PhD. Lee Strobel interviewed him and recorded this in his book on *The Case For A Creator*, page 128ff. (See these verses in the Bible: Isaiah 42: 5; 40: 26; Genesis 1: 1). Also see Robin Collins website about fine tuning at: www.robincollins.org. Some simple examples of fine tuning are:

The Earth: The axial tilt of the earth ensures not only an optimal temperature, but that the temperature will be normalized over the surface of the planet. If the rotational period of the earth were longer, the difference in temperature between night and day would be too drastic; if shorter, atmospheric wind would be too fast. If the Earth's gravity were stronger, the

¹ This is from a paper I had but I no longer know the author.

² For further information look at this site: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/creationists-deny-laws-of-nature>

³ For detailed information on this see: *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* by Steven C. Meyer. See also *The Case for A Creator* by Lee Strobel page 221ff.

⁴ Strobel, 132 (Case for A Creator)

atmosphere would retain too much ammonia and methane; if weaker, it would lose too much water. The "shininess," or albedo, of the Earth's atmosphere is also vital. If the earth reflected too much sunlight, the surface temperature would cool, and extensive glaciers would form; if it retained too much sunlight, the atmosphere would fall into a greenhouse effect. **Albedo** is from a Latin term meaning "white."

The Oceans: The moon is just the right distance away from the earth to affect the tides. If the moon were farther, the stagnant water wouldn't be able to support plant life; if closer, the tides would cover too much of the land. Underwater earthquakes occur in just the right amount to disperse the nutrients lying on the seabed without destroying too much of the ocean life. The salinity of the ocean is also a key characteristic; if the ocean wasn't salty, ice would form more easily, reflecting heat back out into space and keeping the planet in a permanent ice age. **Salinity** refers to the saltiness of the water.

Water Cycle: The Earth is situated at just the right distance from the sun to ensure that water can exist as solid, liquid, and vapor. Any closer, the water would boil, possibly creating a greenhouse effect that would heat the temperature on the surface like that of Venus. Any farther, the water would freeze, making plant life all but impossible. The rate of precipitation is also finely tuned. A greater rate would erode away the arable soil needed by plants; a lesser rate would prevent water from reaching those plants, and prevent nutrients from eroding into the ocean where sea life depend on them.

The Solar System: If our sun were redder or bluer, plants would not be able to use sunlight for photosynthesis. The sun's magnetic field is perfectly aligned to protect us from cosmic rays, yet not generate too high of an x-ray flux. Even the positions and sizes of the **gas giants** are imperative. If they were closer or larger, they would catastrophically affect Earth's orbit around the sun; if they were smaller or farther away, they wouldn't cause as many comets and asteroids to detour away from the interior of the solar system.⁵ The "**gas**" **planets (or giants)**, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune have a thick atmosphere of Hydrogen and helium.⁶ Read also: Isaiah 42: 5; 40: 26; Genesis 1: 1.

The ultimate origin of beauty. How can there be anything beautiful without there being an ultimate standard for beauty? This argument is based upon the presence of beauty and sublimity in the universe. It observes that we have both:

- The presence of beauty in nature itself and in art produced by man.
- The response of man to such beauty (appreciation and awe). This is also called the aesthetic argument.

Sublimity means beautiful and awe-inspiring. The word **aesthetic** relates to the appearance of things.

Implication:

How did this "beauty" and the "ability to appreciate it" develop?

Was it the result of blind chance or did it come from a Supreme Being, who Himself is artistic with an appreciation for beauty? See Job 40: 9-10; Ps 19: 1-2; 96: 4-6. **So, life from random chance does not explain the presence of beauty and sublimity.**⁷

The universal religious instinct – One writer said concerning this, *"Men in all the world, and throughout all time, not only believe in deity, but also engage in acts of worship and devotion. The religious principle is extremely potent in all nations, dominating their thought and history. Everywhere the human heart has a craving for God. There will be exceptions as individuals, but the exceptions do not invalidate the rule. The atheist is an exception in every society!"*⁸ This is also called the general argument. Mark Copeland says about this, *"The implication: For every deep longing of man, there is something that satisfies it (e.g., hunger-food). There must be a reality (i.e., God) that complements our universal religious craving. Solomon writes of God placing eternity in the hearts of man – Ecclesiastes 3:11. Paul says a longing for God was placed in man by God Himself-- Acts 17:26-27. Only the fool and the wicked repress their religious instincts – Psalm 14:1; 10:4; Romans 1:18-28. Life from random chance does not explain the universal religious instinct."*⁹

⁵ <http://www.compellingtruth.org/anthropic-principle.html>

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_giant

⁷ For more information see: http://executableoutlines.com/cc/cc_02.htm:

⁸ Ferrell Jenkins, *Introduction To Christian Evidence (Guardian of Truth Foundation, 1981)*.

⁹ For more information see: http://executableoutlines.com/cc/cc_02.htm:

