

The Improbability of the Possibility of the Universe's Existence without a Prime Mover

The Emerging Challenge

- Western culture has moved from a time when it was impossible not to believe in God, to a time when it became possible not to believe in God, to a time, when for many, it is impossible to believe in God.
- There are a number of reasons why people don't believe in God which include:
 - The existence of evil – if God is good it is assumed that evil shouldn't exist
 - The belief that science has disproved God's existence
 - Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is the belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence. Richard Dawkins
 - The amount of suffering in the world
 - The number of religions in the world
 - Hypocritical followers of religion
 - Not wanting God to exist
 - 'I want atheism to be true. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and naturally hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God: I don't want the universe to be like that...' Atheist Thomas Nagel
- There are attacks on God in a variety of ways including:
 - Belief in God is dangerous
 - God was necessary for humanity's 'infantile and adolescent' phase of development and is no longer needed now that humanity has entered 'adulthood'
 - God is not necessary
 - Raising your children to believe in God should be criminalized as it is a form of child abuse
 - 'Faith can be very, very dangerous, and deliberately to implant it into the vulnerable mind of an innocent child is a grievous wrong.' Richard Dawkins
 - The belief that God loves you is selfish and narcissistic
 - 'You are not a unique snowflake, you are not special, you are just another piece of decaying matter on the compost pile of this world. Nothing of who you are and what you will do in the short time you are here will matter. Everything short of that realization is vanity.' Casey K New York Times May 2015

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1

- 'Every doctrine rests on certain first principles that cannot themselves be proven, because they are the means by which we prove and disprove we prove and disprove everything else.' J. Budziszewski

An Introductory Response

- So are they right?
- What if it's not about the possibility or probability of belief in God but rather the necessity of belief in God because He has not been fabricated or created by us but rather has revealed Himself to us.

Our Existence

- Why is there something instead of nothing?
 - Moreover, the pathways that have led to our evolution are quirky, improbable, unrepeatable and utterly unpredictable. Human evolution is not random; it makes sense and can be explained after the fact. But wind back life's tape to the dawn of time and let it play again—and you will never get humans a second time. Stephen Jay Gould
 - The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the Big Bang are enormous, I think there are clearly religious implications. It would be very difficult to explain why the universe would have

begun in just this way except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.' Stephen Hawking

- 'Suppose you suddenly hear a big bang and you ask me, 'What made the bang?' and I reply, 'Nothing, it just happened.' You would not accept that. In fact you would find my reply quite unintelligible.' Atheist Kai Nielsen
- Something has had to always exist, as nothing can't create something – either matter has existed in some form, or God has always been.

The Fine Tuning of the Universe and the Regularity of Nature

- There is a one in a trillion chance that our universe would have a world that would support organic and human life.
- There are a number of inexplicable constants in our world such as water boiling freezing at the same temperatures every day, gravity and the rotation of the earth that don't change. If everything, including our universe, is evolving why is nature regular and constant?

Morals

- Three theories. 1) Biological Adaption 2) Constructivist 3) God
 - 'Morality is a biological adaption no less than are hands and feet and teeth. Considered as a rationally justifiable set of claims about an objective something, ethics is illusory. I appreciate that when somebody says, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself,' they think they are referring above and beyond themselves. Nevertheless, such reference is truly without foundation. Morality is just an aid to survival and reproduction and any deeper meaning is illusory.' Michael Ruse, University of Guelph
 - 'Although I believe that values are socially constructed rather than God given...I do not believe that gender inequality is any more defensible than racial inequality, despite repeated efforts to pass it off as culture-specific 'custom' rather than an instance of injustice.' Mari Ruti, University of Toronto
 - However there must be an objective moral standard as most of us equally cry out when we hear about the atrocities of slavery, racial genocide, rape or child abuse and we don't simply say these things are impractical...we classify them as wrong.
 - If a premise (there is no God) leads you to a conclusion you know is false (ethnic cleansing is culturally relative) then why not change the premise?

The Possibility of God

- God's Existence
 - 'That there is indeed a limit upon science is made very likely by the existence of questions that science cannot answer, and that no conceivable advance of science would empower it to answer...I have in mind such questions as: How did everything begin? What are we all here for? What is the point of living?' Peter Medawar Oxford immunologist and Nobel Prize recipient
 - 'To say we cannot know anything about God is to say something about God; it is to say that if there is a God, He is unknowable.' J. Budziszewski
- Suffering
 - 'In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.' Richard Dawkins
 - Jesus lost all his glory so that we could be clothed in it. He was shut out so we could get access. He was bound and nailed so that we could be free. He was cast out so we could approach. And Jesus took away the only kind of suffering that can really destroy you: that is being cast away from God. He took that so that now all suffering that comes into your life will only make you great. Tim Keller
 - Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed desolating and painful, with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my seventy five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my

existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained...This, of course is what the cross signifies. And it is the cross, more than anything else, that has called me inexorably to Christ. Malcolm Muggeridge

In Summary

- 'In sum we have a powerful reason based on the origin of the universe to believe that an uncaused, changeless, timeless, immaterial, personal Creator of the universe exists.' William Lane Craig
- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1
- God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:15-16