

DEFENDABLE FAITH - ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

Does God Exist? How Can We Know?

Introduction: Across the centuries, people of faith have drawn on many rational arguments to try to offer _____ proof or reasonable _____ of the existence of God to unbelievers. Some of these arguments were made from _____ logic, others drawn from _____ evidence. While each of these had their own strengths and weaknesses, there is a methodology of apologetic that is offered from the _____ themselves when addressing the question “Does God exist?”

We find it in **Romans 1:18-20, Psalm 19:1-6, and Job 38-41** as well as many other references in the Bible. In fact, the appearance of this apologetic in the Scriptures, gives us great encouragement and _____ in using it. Let’s read from these passages.

Romans 1:18–20 NKJV 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because **what may be known of God** is manifest in them, **for God has shown it to them.** 20 For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Psalm 19:1–6 NKJV 1 **The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.** 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 *There is* no speech nor language *Where* their voice is not heard. 4 **Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.** In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *And* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6 Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, *And* its circuit to the other end; *And* there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Job 38:1–7 NKJV 1 **Then the LORD answered Job** out of the whirlwind, and said: 2 “Who *is* this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. 4 “**Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?** Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. 5 **Who determined its measurements?** Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, *And* all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 39:1–4 NKJV 1 “**Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young?** Or can you mark when the deer gives birth? 2 Can you number the months *that* they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young? 3 They bow down, They bring forth their young, They deliver their offspring. 4 Their young ones are healthy, They grow strong with grain; They depart and do not return to them.

Job 40:15–24 NKJV 15 “**Look now at the behemoth, which I made *along with you***; He eats grass like an ox. 16 See now, his strength *is* in his hips, And his power *is* in his stomach muscles. 17 He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. 18 His bones *are like* beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron. 19 **He *is the first of the ways of God***; Only He who made him can bring near His sword. 20 Surely the mountains yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there. 21 He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh. 22 The lotus trees cover him *with their shade*; The willows by the brook surround him. 23 Indeed the river may rage, *Yet he is not disturbed*; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth, 24 *Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces his nose with a snare.*

This apologetic can be simply called “The Evidence of Design.” In the last two decades, it has often been called “_____ Design.” Philosophers call it the _____ argument.

The argument is simple.

- The universe shows _____ evidence of order and design to have been generated by _____ processes.
- This much design can only be present because it was _____.
- _____ is the only reasonable choice for someone or something sufficient for such a design.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ARGUMENT OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN IS ACCEPTED BY _____.

A. Allow me to illustrate.

1. Here is a picture of a stone eagle on top of an amethyst geode.
 - a. If you could examine the eagle, you would find it also is made of stone.
 - b. Both the amethyst and the eagle are beautiful and _____.
 - c. However, you could believe that a prospector found the geode in _____ and did not do anything with the amethyst except pick it up.
 - d. But no one would believe that the stone eagle just occurred _____.
 - e. Everybody would say “That was carved out of stone.” Somebody _____ that.
 - f. In fact, they would probably ask, “_____ made that?”
2. Why do you ask, “Who made that?”

- a. Why did someone _____ ask, “How did that just happen to come to be?”
 - b. Or “How long did it take for that to be formed by _____ chance?”
 - c. If someone did ask such a question, even the kindhearted among us would be tempted to think, “_____!”
 - d. Why is this?
3. Because the _____ and _____ in the carved statue is immediate and _____ evidence to every single one of us that **somebody made this.**

B. The presence of design and order in something is _____ accepted as irrefutable evidence of a _____.

1. On a common level
 - a. A prospective member of our church stands outside and looks at our auditorium before Hurricane Michael and says, “How did you _____ this building?”

What if I said, “Well, we just took a big stack of pilings, several thousand bags of concrete mix, some truckloads of sand, barrels of water, dozens of pallets of brick, a whole bunch of steel studs, stacks and stacks of drywall, a hundred buckets of paint, a few rolls of carpet, a bunch of light fixtures and rolls of wire, some sound speakers, microphones, and a couple of control boards, and we stacked it all up right about there on top of ten sticks of dynamite with a long fuse. One day we lit the fuse and boom, everything just _____ into place.”
 - b. My point is **nobody thinks like that.** The very existence of a _____ is evidence of a _____. The very presence of a _____ means a _____. **Design and order are universally accepted as evidence of a _____.**
2. This is even true among _____ who are _____.
 - a. Where would you find more scientists who believe evolution than among those scientists who are involved in the search for _____ intelligent life? As this group of evolutionists aim their antennas at different parts of the sky and feed their radio signals back into their computers, what are they listening for? Longing for? Searching for? Spending millions of dollars for? **For a signal that has some kind of _____!** Because they know that if they find a signal that has some kind of order, **it will mean that _____ sent it!**

C. The evidence that nobody denies is order and design. Even those who would argue with this very statement, on a practical day by day level operate their lives by the principle: order and design are _____ evidence of a designer.

II. OUR WORLD AND THE UNIVERSE ARE _____ WITH DESIGN AND ORDER.

A. The obvious around us

1. Remember the last time you looked at a _____:
 - a. Beautiful green leaves, no two _____, but each one _____ to all of the others.
 - b. And have you looked closely at the blossom, rich in color, made of multiple overlapping petals, each one so clearly _____ to be a part of the whole.
2. The design and order in the _____ world is even more pronounced:
 - a. I remember the pet _____ my son Kyle used to have. Even the coloring of their skin creating little masks across their eyes was especially appropriate. They were bandits at heart, furiously working to retrieve anything shiny or jingly and absolutely resolute in their refusal to give it back.

B. The not so obvious

1. Substances can exist naturally in four forms: gas, plasma, liquid, and solid. Take a solid chunk of iron and heat it hot enough, and it turns to a _____.
2. Now almost all substances, as they pass from gas to liquid to solid, increase in _____. So if you started with a huge mass of the solid, heated some of it to the temperature for it to become a liquid, and then heated some of the liquid hot enough to be a gas, it would separate itself with the solid on the _____, the liquid in the middle, and the gas on _____.
3. Now that is true for almost _____ substance that exists in all three states, every substance but one: _____. Water is different. When you freeze liquid water and it becomes _____, its density decreases, and the ice _____.
4. And this unique property of water makes the earth _____. For if water _____, as any other substance would do when it freezes, then the earth would become a solid _____ globe.
5. But it is not, because of the unique order and design of water.

C. Even evolutionist scientists acknowledge it.

1. Every scientist _____ every day that the universe is filled with order and design.

Each day they do their scientific work they are either using or looking for some scientific _____. A scientific law is a statement of a _____, a description of the way something _____ works because of its inherent order. If this world were instead filled with _____, there would be no science. No experiment would come out the same; no theory could be proved. But that is not the way it is. The very existence of the discipline we call “_____” is proof of the order found everywhere in the universe.

2. Stephen _____ was considered by his evolution loving peers as the world’s most brilliant cosmologist. Although he was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak due to Lou Gehrig’s disease, his intellect was often compared to that of Albert Einstein. Using a computer to voice the words he painstakingly selected with a pointing device mounted on the arm of his wheelchair, Hawking has probably done more to further belief in the big bang theory than any person in the world.

Do you know what Hawking said was his number _____ professional goal? He wanted to discover and state the _____ **theory**. The unified theory is the formula that unites the theories of each of the four fundamental _____ of the universe: gravity, electromagnetism, the strong force, and the weak force. The formulation and verification of the unified theory would be the crown jewel of physics, and Stephen Hawking was on its quest.

But think about what that says. That means that the world’s most _____ and ardent evolutionist _____ with his very life’s purpose, that this entire _____ is one of order and _____. The very man who attributes the origin of all things to randomness, lived his life extracting knowledge of the order of the universe from its pages.

The Guardian is a left leaning British newspaper. Two months after Dr. Hawking died, they published an opinion piece with the title “Did the dying Stephen Hawking really mean to strengthen the case for God?”

Hawking had throughout his career championed the _____ theory to explain the extremity of order he and others observed in our one known universe. The idea was if there are an infinite number of universes, one of them has to be like ours, just by chance. But in his final paper before his death, Hawking and co-author Thomas Hertog formulated strict limits to the kind of universes that could populate a multiverse, all of them having the _____ scientific laws. In terms of supporting atheism, *The Guardian* said,

“This is not a step forward but a step back.” (*The Guardian*, U.S. Edition, May 7, 2018)

That is why I insist that the evidence is undeniable. This _____ and universe are _____ with order and design. Irrefutably, order and design prove the _____ of a designer.

III. THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF DESIGN LEAVES ARDENT ATHEISTS GRASPING AT STRAWS.

Sir Fred Hoyle was a famous _____ at Cambridge, overlapping for a season with Stephen Hawking. He, like so many other scientists, observed the extensive design in the universe defy the laws of probability to come into existence by mere chance. He was especially overwhelmed by the existence of _____. Hoyle wrote:

Would you not say to yourself, “Some super-calculating intellect must have designed the properties of the carbon atom, otherwise the chance of my finding such an atom through the blind forces of _____ would be utterly minuscule? A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond _____.” (Fred Hoyle, "The Universe: Past and Present Reflections." *Engineering and Science*, November 1981. pp. 8–12)

Sadly, Hoyle and many others did not follow the evidence that would lead them to believe in a personal God who created it all. Instead, Hoyle postulated some super intelligent _____ culture which developed life and seeded it on our planet.

There are many scientists drowning in an ocean of evidence clinging to the same straws to keep their heads above water. This was true of the well-known Dr. Carl _____ who found extraterrestrials to be more plausible than God.

Such men and women seem deaf to the question, “Then who _____ the extraterrestrials?”

At least philosopher, Thomas Nagel of New York University, was honest.

I _____ atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and naturally hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a _____; I don't want the universe to be like that.

IV.A STORY OF THE POWER OF THE “INTELLIGENT DESIGN” APOLOGETIC.

(Taken from *The Case For a Creator* by Strobel, p 69ff.)

Allan Rex Sandage is considered one of the greatest _____ in the world. He was a protégé of the legendary Edwin Hubble. He has been awarded a multitude of honors by American, British, and Swiss Astronomical Societies. The New York Times labeled him “The Grand Old Man of Cosmology.”

Sandage was a Jew by ethnicity but an _____ by conviction. But in 1985 at a conference on science and religion, Sandage took his stand with the theists and declared that he had not only come to a belief in _____ as the _____ of the universe, but he had also become a _____. He stunned the audience with his announcement that he believed the formation of the universe was a _____ event that cannot be explained within the realm of physics as we know it. He said that the sudden emergence of matter, space, time, and energy pointed to the need for some kind of _____. Let me quote his words, “It was my science that drove me to the conclusion that the world is much more _____ than can be explained by science. It was only through the _____ that I can understand the mystery of existence.”