

DEFENDABLE FAITH - ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

Does God Exist? - The Evidence from Physics

Introduction: In answer to the question, “What makes you think that God exists?” is the apologetic of “Intelligent _____.”

- Virtually any examination of the universe or any of the individual things within it reveals an amazing amount of order and complexity. Everything teems with design.
- And the more deeply one examines, whether with telescope or microscope, rather than discovering a _____ explanation for the design and order observed, the more mysterious the intrinsic design becomes.

Stephen C. Meyer had degrees in physics and geology when he entered the master’s degree program in the history and philosophy of science at Cambridge University in England. He later obtained his doctorate from Cambridge, doing his dissertation on _____ of life biology issues.

Meyer said of the amazing order seen in the elements of the universe, “Maybe the world _____ designed because it really is designed!”

Three areas of study that yield striking information about the design of the universe and the things within it are astronomy, physics, and biochemistry. Using interviews conducted by Lee Strobel recorded in *The Case For A Creator*, we are examining some of this evidence.

In this lesson, we will look at what we learn from the field of physics. It is interesting that God Himself pointed to this line of evidence in his conversation with Job.

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?

HARVARD PH.D. CONVINCED BY “ANTHROPIC FINE TUNING.”

Even before he entered college, Patrick Glynn was a convinced evolutionist and recognized the _____ of the tenants of evolution with the Bible he had been taught in parochial school. By the time he received his doctorate from Harvard in the 1970’s, he was a confirmed atheist.

Glynn's wife was a Christian, and her faith and their arguments drove him to reexamine the evidence to see if there was any _____ reason to believe in God. He was shocked by what he discovered. He wrote

Gradually, I realized that in the twenty years since I opted for philosophical atheism, a vast, systematic literature had emerged that not only cast deep doubt on, but also, from any reasonable perspective, effectively refuted my atheistic outlook.

The primary evidence that convinced Glynn was “anthropic _____ tuning.”

- **A Definition**

- Anthropic comes from the Greek word for _____, anthropos. “Anthropic fine tuning” means that all of the seemingly arbitrary constants, parameters, and laws in the physics of the universe have one strange thing in common. They are precisely the values needed for a universe capable of producing and supporting human life.
- It means that it seems that the laws of physics with all of its associated values have been _____ by someone so that they are compatible with human life.

- **Many scientists are convinced by this observation.**

- **Walter Bradley** wrote, “It is quite easy to understand why so many scientists have changed their minds in the past thirty years, agreeing that the universe cannot reasonably be explained as a cosmic accident. Evidence for an intelligent designer becomes more compelling the more we understand about our carefully crafted _____.”
- **Cosmologist Edward Harrison said**, “The fine tuning of the universe provides prima facie evidence of deistic design.
- **Sir Fred Hoyle**, an eminent British astrophysicist declared, “I do not believe that any scientists who examined the evidence would fail to draw the inference that the laws of nuclear physics have been _____ designed with regard to the consequences they produce inside stars.”
- **Senior Astronomer for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Owen Gingerich added**, “Fred Hoyle and I differ on lots of questions, but on this we agree: a common sense and satisfying interpretation of our world suggests the designing hand of a _____.”
- **Robin Collins**, Ph.D. in physics, University of Texas said, “When scientists talk about the fine tuning of the universe, they are generally referring to the extraordinary balancing of the fundamental laws and parameters of physics... The result is a universe that has just the right conditions to sustain life. The

coincidences are simply too _____ to have been the result of happenstance.”

AN ILLUSTRATION OF “ANTHROPIC FINE TUNING.”

- Suppose astronauts found a biosphere on Mars. When the astronauts entered the biosphere, every control was set so that the conditions were perfect to _____ human life.
- They would believe that someone designed and built the system and _____ the controls for them.
- That is an analogy for our _____. Out of a wide range of possibilities, all of the necessary controls have been set to support human life.

SOME OF THE SYSTEMS THAT EVIDENCE BEING SET TO SUPPORT HUMAN LIFE

- **Gravity**
 - Suppose you stretch a tape measure from one edge of the universe to another.
 - Suppose you wanted to try a _____ value for the strength of the force of gravity, so you increase the setting by one inch, one inch out of the whole diameter of the universe!
 - The results would be catastrophic for human life. Any animal the size of humans would be _____. Nothing larger than insects could live.
 - All of this would result, even though the change was extraordinarily _____, one part in ten thousand billion billion billion. One in 10^{28} .
- **The Cosmological Constant - the _____ density of empty space**
 - According to the accepted laws of physics, the value of the cosmological constant could be anything between large and positive and large and negative.
 - The first principles of general relativity predicted that it would be very _____ and positive.
 - Fortunately, such suppositions were _____. If it had turned out large and positive, bodies like the earth would break apart in space. If it were large and negative, the universe would be collapsing on itself.
 - The cosmological constant turns out to be _____ and positive, and it is precisely fine-tuned. How precise? To one part in 10^{53} . In other words, if random chance set the value for the cosmological constant, the probability for getting a universe in which _____ could exist was 1 out of 10^{53} .

- If you ask what is the probability that both gravity and the cosmological constant could have been set by chance to allow for a universe that supports life, the answer is roughly equivalent to the chance of being blindfolded and then picking out a single specifically marked _____ out of all the atoms in the universe in only one try.
- **The difference in mass of protons and neutrons.**
- **Change the strength of the electromagnetic force or the _____ force (the force that binds atoms together), and life is no longer possible.**
- **Stephen C. Meyer said, “There are more than _____ separate physical or cosmological parameters that require precise calibration in order to produce a life sustaining universe.”**

THE _____ ARGUMENT OF SOME ATHEISTS.

- **“Our universe is just one of _____ universes, perhaps an infinite number.**
- **The response to the multi-universe hypothesis.**
 - If there is something that is generating multiple universes, the ultimate question of intelligent design just moves back a step.
 - If you have a system that is capable of generating universe after universe, that in itself is evidence of a very sophisticated system that evidences order and design.
 - Even this hypothesis points to a _____.

Conclusion: So, “Who determined its _____?” Chance or God?