

Why Believe in God?

The Universe Began:

Did you know that the universe began to exist?

Today, nearly every scientist agrees on that.



But this was not always the case. In ancient Greece it was commonly believed that the universe had existed forever. Many Eastern religions also have committed to an eternal universe.

But the eternal universe view ran smack into the face of science in the 1900s. Why? High power telescopes discovered that the universe is constantly expanding. This means that at some point in the past the universe was condensed into a single point. Then something exploded it apart. It began to exist.

What caused the explosion?

The *Kalam Cosmological Argument* of centuries ago states:

1. Everything which begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause.

Astronomer Carl Sagan said: *“The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.”* But many say that a mind outside of the universe is the best explanation of its cause. This fits well with the Bible’s description:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

The Inexplicable Origin of Life:

Life is mysterious. We all have a sense of what it means to be alive, yet biologists can’t agree on life’s definition. Things like viruses blur the lines. What is certain is that every living thing is extremely complex. Whether we are talking about a full-bodied organism or a “simple” cell, hundreds of thousands, to billions of DNA units are required to code it. And the code is just the start.

Even a perfect strand of DNA can do nothing on its own. It must be set within a cell’s nucleus, powered by mitochondria, have ribosomes to make proteins, and a cell wall for protection. So how could the first,

simplest, organism begin? Where would it start? Many obstacles confront the need for complexity in a universe that favors chaos.

Yet even more is needed. When someone dies, all of the parts may be in the right place, but life is gone. So even if we could assemble all the complex machinery of a cell, would it come alive? The origin of life requires the parts – and a special something to breathe life into them.

“The Lord God...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” Genesis 2:7

If God Exists, is he Good?

Why suffering? We have a sense that life is not all we want it to be. The universe requires what are called “constants” to make it run. The earth has tectonic plates, gravity and weather. Disasters, accidents, and disease happen as a natural result of such systems.

Surprisingly, even people who don’t believe in God blame him for disasters and suffering. Bible explains it: life on earth is not perfect.

“Time and chance happen to them all.” Ecclesiastes 9:11

Why rules? The Creator gave us commands. They can be summarized as: *Love God and love each other.* Matthew 22:34-40

God cares about us personally. He wants what is good for us and those around us. God’s commands not to kill, steal, lie or want our neighbor’s spouse, are not cruel, but show us how to live in harmony.

We question God’s character. But we often misunderstand what is good. Or we value one kind of good at the expense of another. And we want judgement against someone “bad,” but not for us.

Human beings are amazing. We do wonderful things. But we are also capable of great evil. The world tells us that we should listen to our heart and pursue its every desire, that there is no right or wrong. So, many people think we would be better off without God and his rules.

But we are the problem. Everyone does wrong. Our desires are warped and lead to conflicts and destruction. The *gospel*, **the good news** is that we can know God and have peace with him.

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8