

FOUR MIRACULOUS WORDS

(The Christian Rebuttal to Atheism)

By Dr. David L. Lane

The nature and being of God is not explained. God in His awesomeness is just presented in four miraculous words; *"In the beginning God"*. There is no philosophy regarding it! No argument about it! No apology for it! No explanation of it! Yes, four miraculous words, *"In the beginning God"*. God does not lie within the realm of scientific proof. The existence of God cannot not be proven by an experiment with a test tube, microscope or telescope. Attempting to prove God by looking through a telescope or microscope would be comparable to tearing a piano apart trying to find the "Hallelujah Chorus".

Whatever your views might be of science and the Bible, or evolution and creation, you must acknowledge that life had a beginning somewhere and by something. The Christian community believes it started with God. We believe that Genesis is the front door to the Bible. Genesis 1 is the knob that turns the door. But in a short simple succinct fashion, Genesis 1:1 is the key that unlocks the doorknob. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth". In words, sublimely simple and simply sublime, we are told the when, who, how, and what of all things. "In the beginning" - is the when! "God" - is the who! "Created" - is the how! "The heavens and the earth" - is the what! The remainder of the Bible is given to WHY!

Without God nothing in the universe makes sense. If this universe is without a maker, and without a method, then it must be without a meaning.



About the author:

Dr. David L. Lane is the senior minister of the Marsalis Avenue Church of Christ, and director of the Marsalis Avenue Church of Christ Life Management Center in Dallas, Texas. He is a psychotherapist, theologian, professor, author and international lecturer. His latest book "Low Motives In High Places" can be purchased at Barnes and Noble Bookstores.

The Ontological Argument. The word “ontology” is derived from the Greek “ontos” – which means “Ground of being” and “logos” which means the “reason for”. This is the philosophical approach, and the more you process the reasoning behind this argument, the more reasonable it becomes.

Man is able to think of God: therefore God must exist. Every thought comes from a thinker; where did his thoughts come from? But the ultimate question becomes: how do you explain the origin and presence of the thinker? Animals do not have the capacity to think about God, or worship God.

There are only two views of the universe: either God is, and he created the universe, or God is not, and the universe just happened. If that is so, then we have some unsolved problems. The equation of the non existence of God is: Nobody times nothing equals everything.

The other possibility is; somebody times something out of nothing equals everything. We look at the world and the universe and we conclude that somebody greater than us made it.

The Cosmological Argument.

The word “cosmological” comes from two Greek words “kosmos” meaning “world” and “logos meaning the reason for”. The design of the world proves that God is. Behind every design is a designer. Behind every law there must be a law giver and behind every creature there must be a creator. Who can look at the orderliness of our universe and declare that it just happened? The presence of order in the universe points to a God as the source of that order.

The Teleological Argument.

The word “teleological” is derived from the Greek words “telos” meaning “end or purpose” and “logos” “meaning the reason for”. The argument says that orderliness denotes purpose. What is the purpose or reason of it all. That can’t be explained without God. Behind every creation there must be a creator. Behind all order there must be an orderer.

When one examines a watch he knows that the frame and all of its parts are put together for a purpose. The parts are adjusted so that they produce motion and the motion is so regulated as to point to the hour of the day. The watch must have an intelligent maker and designer. No one believes a watch is the result of an explosion in a wrecking yard. Someone created it for a purpose. Its purpose is to tell time. However, the universe is regulated with order and precision more perfect than the watch. The planets all move upon their orbits in orderly fashion. The earth rotates upon its axis every twenty-four hours, while at the same time it is moving around the sun at the amazing rate of 72,600 miles per hour.

Everything in the universe is on perfect time. The exact precision of the working of the universe allows scientists to look into the future and predict exactly when we may expect an eclipse of the sun or the moon. This points to order, while order points to purpose. Why is the world in existence? Only the God who made it can tell us. Psalm 24:1-2 “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.”

Genesis 1:1 while stating “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” very plainly tells us we are not here by chance. We are here by choice. The earth nor man are here by accident, nor are they an incident. The Christian faith believes we are here by God’s design. God made us for the purpose of having fellowship with Him, glorifying Him, and living eternally with Him.

All things were created for His pleasure. Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created". God did not need our opinion or permission. Where were we when he laid the foundation of the universe? God created all things because of His desire.

All things were created for His praise. Romans 11:36 "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen. What does this mean? It means the same as Psalm 150:6 when it said "Let everything that has breath praise." Everything created is to bring glory to God. The only thing God created that he has trouble receiving praise from is man. The trees lift their leafy arms and praise God. The beautiful flowers lift their pedals and they say "praise God". The bird on pinioned wings says "praise God". The mighty oceans heave with their billows and say "praise God". Niagara rolls and rolls and says "praise God". You and I were made to praise God. What do you have to give God that he doesn't have more than you, except praise? We were made for Him. There is a God shaped vacuum in all of us and we will not rest until we rest in Him.

All things were created for his people. When God created the earth, he was creating a home for man to live in. He made all of this for us and gave it to us as stewards in his kingdom. He told us to have dominion and enjoy it. God made it all for His glory and our good. He made it for his praise and for his people. Psalm 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart". Psalm 84:11 "For the lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly".

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 remind us of our primary purpose. For being on planet earth "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every select thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Order denotes purpose and only the creator could know the purpose, hence the teleological argument.

The Moral Argument. If evolution is true, there are many questions yet to be answered. First, evolution is not fact only a theory. There is a missing link in fossil evidence. If man evolved from apes where are the fossils that are part man and part ape? If birds evolved from reptiles where are the fossils that are part reptile and part bird?

Also, there are some moral questions the evolutionist cannot answer. How do you account for the wearing of clothing? Apes do not wear clothing and there is no fossil of a past ape and part man wearing them, because there is no fossil evidence of such an existence. How do you account for the origin of shame, embarrassment, and guilt? Revelation from God reveals it in the Bible Genesis 3:6-11. How do you account for the origin of blame passing? Cats and dogs, monkeys and apes don't pass blame, yet Genesis 3:11-13 informs us when man started. How do you account for the origin of speech and language? How do you account for the origin of marriage and the home without God? How do you account for the conscience and the recognition of good and evil without God?

Atheism is the result of flawed reasoning and misguided pride, by those who have not been able to understand the Creation, the origin of evil and other difficulties with life. So Atheist concocted the hypothesis of inevitability. Yet, their conclusions leave some moral and ethical issues unanswered. The pivotal mind boggling, reality pressing question yet to be answered by atheism is what benefit can be gained morally, ethically or professionally by being an atheist? What contribution has atheism made to the betterment of the world? How does atheism make me a better person or prepare me for a better life in the here or the hereafter?

The Biblical Argument.

We believe in God, because we believe the Bible. Therefore, we believe the first four miraculous words found in Genesis 1:1; *"In the beginning God"*.

To believe that there is no God is to believe that "providence is an idle dream, prayer is useless exercise, heaven is a vain hope, life is without inspection, death is without anticipation, and conscience is without accountability." The Bible, the world or life cannot be explained without God.

Christianity is Christ, everything we believe about God is based on what we believe about Christ. . We have come to believe in God by faith and not by reason. While Christianity is a walk of faith, it is not blind faith. Our faith is based on Historical Objective Truth. It is a truth that is historically documented and can be verified. We believe what John wrote in John 1:1-3, 14 "1) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) The same was in the beginning with God. 3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

History verifies that Jesus lived, and claimed to be God in the flesh. He looked like a man, but he worked like a God. He did things that only a God could do, including dying, being buried and rising again the third day according to the scriptures.

The Personal Argument.

I know God is, because I am. My "am-ness" is wrapped up in His "is-ness". If there were no God there would be no me. Without Him as the ground of being, I could not be.

Acts 17:24-28 "(24) *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;*

(25)Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; (26) And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

(27) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (28) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring".

At the risk of repeating myself, let me repeat myself. "I know He is, because I am".

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME DOUBT HIM, I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT HIM!

God is stronger than our struggle and bigger than our burdens. He has the upper hand even on the underworld. The devil can't defeat Him and situations can't subdue Him.

GOO IS...

too holy to be defiled
too eternal to be an a transient
too alert to be surprised--
too near to be far away-
too punctual to be late--
too watchful to sleep--
too mindful to forget--
too truthful to lie
too exact to error--
too wise to be deceived--
too infallible to make a mistake--
too sure to fail
too strong to be defeated--
too powerful to be dethroned-
too right to be wrong--
too real to be a myth

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME DOUBT HIM, I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT HIM!

"There are some things I may not know,
there are some places that I can't go.
But I am sure of this one thing;
Yes, God is real, for I can feel Him in my soul".

END NOTES:

1. Anselm's Ontological Argument

It is widely (though not universally) accepted that the first ontological argument was proposed by Anselm of Canterbury

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontological_argument

<http://www.princeton.edu/~grosen/puc/phi203/ontological.html>

2. W.D. Jeffcoat "THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD"

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/rr/reprints/Cosmological-Argument-for-Exist.pdf>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmological_argument

The cosmological argument has been used by various theologians and philosophers over the centuries, from the ancient Greek Plato and Aristotle to the medieval St. Thomas Aquinas and beyond.

3. The teleological argument.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/teleological-argument>