

IS THERE REALLY A GOD **(How To Know God Exists)**

Perry Atkinson & John Mittendorf
January 3, 2014

Part I

INTRODUCTION

During the times of the early church and up to about the time of the Greek and Roman empires, the reality and belief of “God” was readily accepted. However, with the *“enlightened advancement of knowledge”*, the erosion of God (singular) was being steadily being minimized by either a belief in many gods or a total unbelief of any god. More recently, there has been an increasing emphasis on Atheism (the belief there is no God) in combination with a desire to remove God from the American culture. Several examples are:

Removing God from America

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- Remove the “Ten Commandments” from public buildings.
- The motto “In God We Trust” being challenged.
- Christian literature removed from library shelves.
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- Atheistic chaplains in the various military branches.

Atheism

- A notable increase in the number of Atheistic “churches (and the media extolling that fact).
- A renewed emphasis on evolution (humanistic viewpoint) in academia and the media.
- A recent wave of books on Atheism including some becoming New York Times best sellers. Two examples are Dr. Richard Dawkins iconic books “The Blind Watchmaker,” the “The God Delusion,” and his latest book “The Greatest Show On Earth” that were written to provide a systematic case for a natural world without God.

Religious Persecution

- The Obama administration attempt to minimize the Catholic Church.

- The necessity of the International Day Of Prayer on November 11, 2013.

Clearly, the God debate is becoming more relevant, and because of its implications should be considered the most significant question of all time: *Is there a God, or isn't there?* With these thoughts in mind, let's look at some clear evidences for the existence of God and then conclude this series with "*Who made God*" and "*How do you know you are a Christian?*"

EVIDENCES FOR GOD

Before we look at the evidences for God that can answer the question of "Is there a God," we first need to consider what god/God we are considering. So let's look at the attributes of the god/God of the four primary world religions:

Hinduism

Hinduism says that if you have been bad, you *may* come back as some type of animal, and if you have been good, you *might* come back as a prince. There is no god.

Buddhism

Buddhism denies that God even exists and embraces the concept of life and death are sort of an illusion.

Islam

Islam acknowledges Hell and God, but also believes that (hopefully) God will see enough religious works and He will show mercy. God is also viewed as impersonal.

Christianity

Christianity is the only "religion" that clearly delineates that God became man, died on a cross, and took our punishment upon Himself, rose again and provided a way to escape eternal damnation and spend eternity with Him. Additionally, the Bible is replete with statements that clarify God as the only true God that desires to have a personal relationship with us and was also responsible for creating the universe and life from nothing.

From the preceding overview of the four primary world religions, it is easy to see that our discussion will focus on the only true God (who is also the God above all other Gods) and is the one-true God as found in the Bible.

To begin our discussion of *Is There Really A God* or *How To Know God Exists*, let's consider four evidences from our perspective of knowledge, and then begin with the knowledge of Information.

- Information (technical knowledge).
- Moral Values (subconscious knowledge).
- Creation (intellectual knowledge).
- Conversion (experiential knowledge).

INFORMATION (#1)

As accounts about our observable universe and world can be categorized as universally true, they are referred to as laws of nature (i.e., 1st and 2ND Laws of Thermodynamics, etc), and enjoy the following properties:

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When the laws of nature are applied to information, we find the following characteristics:

1. A material entity cannot generate a non-material entity.
2. Information is a non-material entity.
3. Information is the non-material basis of all programmed-directed biological systems.
4. There can be no information without a code.
5. Every code is a result of a free will.
6. There can be no new information without an intelligent, purposeful sender.
7. Any given chain of information can be traced back to an intelligent, purposeful sender.

Now, let's apply the preceding overview of information and Laws of Nature to the evidence of/for God. As a result of Drs. Watson and Crick discovering DNA which is often referred to as the "Code of Life, we now know that all life is built upon information. The DNA code is a genetic language that communicates information to every cell in all living things and could not have arisen by accidental, undirected chance. Interestingly, the amount of information in every human cell is equivalent to the information in 1,000 books of encyclopedia size, or if all the DNA in your body's 100 trillion cells were put end to end, it would reach to the sun and back over 600 times. The DNA code is a genetic language that communicates information to a cell and is a prime representation of specified complexity. Information requires intelligence and design requires a designer (as an example, it is absurd to consider the perspective of any written book coming into existence from absolutely nothing). Now, let's apply the Laws of Nature to information from the preceding numbered section and see how it can result in evidence for God:

God Exists

- All forms of life contain a code (DNA) that is information.
- Therefore, there is an intelligent sender (using #3, 6, and 7).
- Therefore God exists. **This conclusion also disproves atheism.**

There is only one God

- Because we know that the information encoded in DNA far exceeds our current technologies, no human can qualify as the sender who must be outside our visible world.
- Therefore, we can conclude there is only one sender (using #1, 2, and 6).

The aforementioned approach to logic and reasoning results in a conclusion of the fact there is only one God and is clearly delineated in numerous biblical passages such as the one found in Isaiah 44:6 - *"I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God."* Although not from a biblical passage, the following quote bears repeating along with an interesting factoid:

"When you have for the first in front of you this 3.1 billion-letter-instruction book that conveys all kinds of information and all kinds mystery about human-kind, you can't

survey that going through page after page without a sense of awe. I can't help but look at those pages and have a vague sense that this is giving me a glimpse of God's mind."
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MORAL VALUES (#2)

Moral values are a practical yet powerful proof that substantiates the existence of God by the fact that there is a universal human nature/disposition to know the difference between right and wrong and recognize the existence of a supreme being (humans are the only "living things" to possess these two abilities). Let's look at the two primary characteristics of conscience and a belief of God that define moral values.

Conscience

Conscience is a distinguishing characteristic that is an implanted trait in every human being. The word conscience comes from two words (*con* that means "with" and *science* that means "knowledge") and is defined by Webster's dictionary as *"a sense of right and wrong, with an urge to do right."* The medical community (particularly Psychologists and Psychiatrists) will readily admit that all humans are imbedded with a moral law and are able to tell the difference between right and wrong. Interestingly, every person has the "knowledge" to differentiate between right and wrong regardless of our background and/or what was taught to an individual. As a result, humans are unique in that we are moral creatures – we have a distinguishing knowledge of right and wrong. Consider the following three examples of right Vs wrong:

- Our court system that determines punishment for wrongdoing.
- Lie detector machines that measures changes in a person's heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, and skin moisture (sweat). In actuality, the lie detector is essentially trying to detect the mechanisms of a person's conscience and record the results.
- After his arrest, the notorious serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer admitted that he had an overwhelming sense of shame over what he had done, and was terribly ashamed of his actions that he knew were wrong.

Belief In God

In addition to an imbedded conscience that is capable of distinguishing between right or wrong, humans also possess an inherent ability to believe there is a God (or, yearning for the supernatural). Consider the following examples:

- Charles Darwin noted this universality in his book *The Descent Of Man*.
- Religions that believe in supernatural beliefs - belief in a supreme being and the power of prayer – are found in nearly every culture on earth.
- In the United States, 91% of adults admit a belief in God.

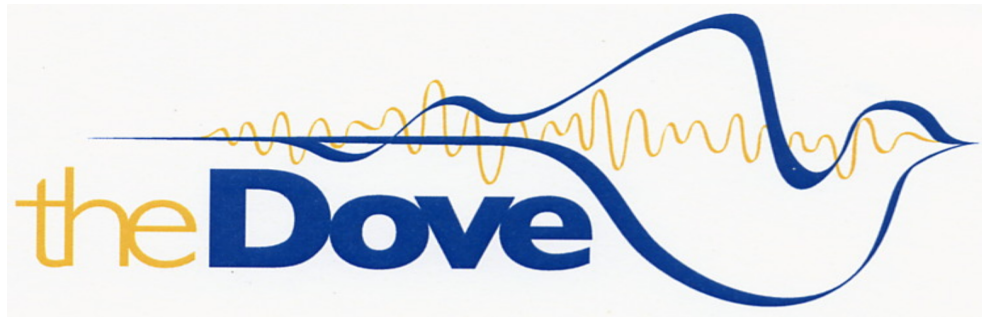
- There are about 7 billion people worldwide. Out of that number, only about 2.5% are atheists.
- Not surprisingly, a typical response for humans who suddenly find themselves in dire circumstances is to pray or call upon God for help.

The question of how and why moral values are an integral part of every human being cannot be answered by atheistic perceptions or secular scientific theories. Therefore, although it is rational to conclude that God has placed an internal evidence of His existence in every human mind (primarily so humans can find and know Him), and has also imbedded the ability to determine right from wrong in addition to the moral substance of the Ten Commandments (which are delineated by God in the Bible), we can also use an objective moral argument for the existence of God as follows:

- Premise #1: If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist.
- Premise #2: Moral values do exist.
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- Premise #2: However, moral values do exist.
- Conclusion: Therefore, God does exist.

CREATION (#3)

The debate between evolution (God-less) and creation (God-centered) has continued for centuries and may be even stronger today than yesterday. However, the argument has been succinctly summarized by Dr. George Wald, a Nobelist from Harvard as follows – *“When it comes to the origin of life on this earth, there are only two possibilities; creation or spontaneous generation (evolution). There is no third way.”* With Dr. Wald’s comments in mind, let’s take a quick look at the claims of creation and evolution.

Creation

The Bible is straightforward and clear when addressing the subject of origins (the universe and all life) and is summarized by Romans 1:20 – *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes (power and divine nature) are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made (creation, universe, and all life), even His eternal power (the Creator who made all that we see around us and sustains it) and Godhead so they are without excuse (God holds all people responsible for their refusal to acknowledge what He has shown them of Himself in His creation).* Creation itself testifies against evolution and demands a creator (God).

Evolution

Evolution is also straightforward and clear when addressing the subject of origins and is summarized by the Humanistic-Naturalistic viewpoint that the universe and all life originated from nothing and is the result of a combination of the Big Bang and Spontaneous Generation without God. In other words, there is no God so God was not involved in the creation of the universe and life that we observe today. However, as we have covered the futility of evolution on theDove numerous times, let’s quickly review why evolution is impossible and refutes all of the observed laws and processes of science and nature:

- Design is obviously the result of a designer and so is the universe and life. If not, then one must believe that the president’s heads on Mt. Rushmore were the

products of thousands of years of erosion or a Coke could come into existence by itself.

- The Law of Biogenesis states that life only originates from pre-existing life. Therefore, evolution from chemicals to a living system is impossible.
- The First Law of Thermodynamics states that energy cannot be created. Therefore, there was no original energy for the “Big Bang.”
- The Second Law of Thermodynamics states everything is running down whereas evolution believes that everything is evolving upwards (i.e., apes to man).
- Mutations are either neutral or detrimental. As evolution needs mutations to change the basic characteristics of cells and to change one form of life to another, the detrimental affect of mutations disproves this theory.
- There is no known natural law through which matter can give rise to information and/or no known sequence of events that can cause information to originate by itself in matter. Therefore, the theory of evolution is unable to answer the question of where DNA (the code of life) came from and/or how it originated from nothing.

In summary, the evolution of the universe and life is naturally and scientifically impossible and provides the intellectual knowledge that there must be the existence of a Creator (God).

CONVERSION (#4)

Although the perception of conversion is often replaced by discussions of atheism and/or evolution Vs creation as proof or disproof of the existence of God, it is, nevertheless, a powerful proof of the existence of God. Consider the fact that in a Court of Law, trials can be won or lost on the testimony of a single witness and/or multiple witnesses. Witnesses have credibility because they observed the event being questioned, and as a result their testimony is capable of deciding guilt or innocence. The same concept is also applicable in verifying the existence of God. Consider the fact that throughout history, literally millions and millions of all types of people and from all “walks of life” have asked Jesus Christ (God) to be their personal savior that has dramatically – and in some cases the change has been revolutionary – changed their life! Interestingly, it is essentially impossible for a person to suddenly transform “*who they are*” and/or “*change their heart.*” However, literally countless people have willingly testified that God transformed their life into a different person/nature from the previous person/nature. Remember that this fact would be acceptable in a modern court of law of a valid testimony and can also provide the experiential knowledge for God.

CONCLUSION

As we conclude this three-part series, let’s briefly consider two perplexing questions that are commonly asked when the subject of God and his eternal attributes are considered, remembering that God is in another dimension that we are not yet totally familiar with and must be accepted on a premise of faith.

WHO MADE GOD?

The short answer to this question is no one did. God was not made, as He always existed. Although this is hard to understand from a human perspective that is largely based on time and the ever present “clock,” the Bible clearly states that God is eternal, outside of time, had no beginning, has no end, and is infinite (*1 Timothy 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal,” Deuteronomy 33:27 “The eternal God” Romans 1:20 “His eternal power, etc).* In summary, God is outside of time as He created time. Remember that Psalm 14:1 says “*The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”*”

WHAT WAS GOD DOING BEFORE HE CREATED THE COSMOS AND MAN?

When the question of “Who Made God” is answered from the perspective of His eternal attribute, then the question of what was God doing with all of His time before He created the cosmos is often raised. Similar to the preceding question, God didn’t wait countless eons of time before creating the universe since there was no time before time was created. According to Genesis, time began with creation (Gen 1:1 “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the universe*). As a result, the only thing prior to time was eternity. Remember, there will be no time in Heaven, only eternity (Rev. 22:5 “*And they shall reign forever and forever*”).

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