

The Cosmological Argument

Please watch this great introductory video at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0&index=1&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX>

Before we get started, let's define some terms:

FINITE...something/someone that has boundaries, something that has a beginning and an end.

INFINITE...someone/something without boundaries, something that has no beginning and no end. Infinity is represented by a sideways eight, ∞ .

LAW OF CASUALITY...for every finite effect, there is a cause other than itself. For example, my pushing you (the cause) will cause you to fall over (the effect).

THE 1st LAW of THERMODYNAMICS...once the universe was created, matter/energy cannot be created or destroyed. The total amount of matter/energy in the universe is constant.

THE 2nd LAW of THERMODYNAMICS...the amount of usable energy in the universe is running down. Eventually, if time permits, the universe will all be at the same temperature. Since work for any life process depends on a temperature difference, no life of any kind will be possible. The universe will have died of what scientists refer to as a 'heat death'.

QUESTION:

Why couldn't the universe have always existed?

This question wrongly assumes that everything must have a cause. We only claim that **everything that has a beginning needs a cause**.

A...Did the universe have a beginning?

- 1...The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics says the universe is running down. Since it's running down, it must have had a starting point that it's running down from.
- 2...Math – **an infinite time can NEVER be traversed**. Infinitely in the past means that there is no beginning to time. So no matter how many days there were in the past, you will NEVER reach today. But since we have arrived at 'today', time had to have a beginning.
- 3...Since nothing can cause itself, the universe must have been caused by something else.



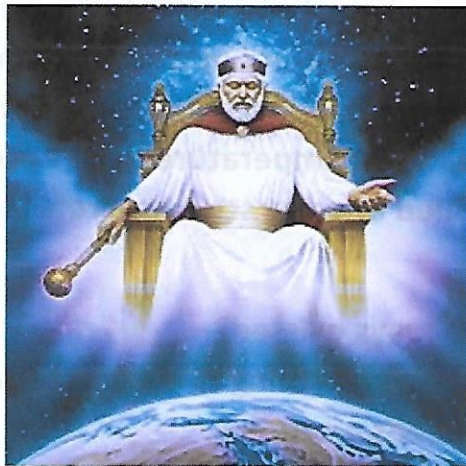
Now let's look at the classical arguments for God's existence.

The cosmological argument or the argument from creation states the following:

- A) Every finite thing must have a beginning
- B) Every finite thing was caused by something else (the law of causality)
- C) If you go back far enough as to what caused this and what caused that, you come to what philosophers call the 1st uncaused cause of everything that ever existed.

Point B is the Law of Causality, which is THE fundamental principle of science. Without the Law of Causality, science is impossible. To deny this Law is to deny rationality.

When you apply this to the creation of the universe, **you get back to whatever caused the universe. Whatever this is, it is the 1st uncaused cause. Whatever caused the universe is outside our realm of observation and scientific knowledge. Many philosophers have given this 1st uncaused cause a name....God.** At this point, it is not the God of the Bible. It is just God. Hey, it's easier to say than the 1st uncaused cause.



Question: Who made God?

No one! He wasn't made. He has always existed. Only finite things or things that are made need a maker. **Only things that have a beginning need a beginner.** It's a category mistake to ask "Who made the unmade?" It's like asking "Who is the bachelor's wife?"

Question: Did God create Himself?

Again only finite things need to be created. This leaves us with 3 choices;

- 1) He is self-created...but nothing can create itself.
- 2) Caused by another...only finite things are created.
- 3) Uncaused...God must be uncaused, even if we cannot understand it.

Question: Can God make a mountain so big, even He cannot move it?

This is another category mistake. It's like "What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?" or "Is there something more than infinite?" or "Who is the bachelor's wife?". These are suicide questions. They have their own destruction built right into them. They are logical impossibilities, hiccups of the English language, self-contradictory question that cannot be answered because of the way they are asked.

Question: Is there only one God?

If you have 2 unlimited beings, then you have no limits as to where one stops and the other starts. So there can be only one unlimited being.

-since He caused everything else, He is unlimited in power (omnipotent).

-since He exists outside of time, He is eternal.

-since He exists outside of space, He is omni-present (Infinite, He can exist anywhere at the same time).

-since He made the universe, He is omniscient (He has all knowledge).

-since His creatures have morals, He is the ultimate moral being.

So God is omni-present, eternal, omniscient, omnipotent & moral.

Question: Is this the God of the Bible?

The Bible says that God is...

1) Eternal...Colossians 1:17 & Hebrews 1:2

2) Omni-present (Infinite)...1st Kings 8:27 & Isaiah 66:1

3) All good (moral)...Psalm 86:5 & Luke 18:19

4) Omnipotent...Hebrews 1:3 & Matthew 19:26

5) Omniscient...1st John 3:20 & John 21:17 & Hebrews 4:13

Reference books:

"The Case for a Creator" by Lee Strobel

"I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" by Geisler & Turek

Reference websites:

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/kalam>

For His Kingdom,

Dave Maynard

<http://BSSSB-LLC.com>