

God Is

by Danny Brown

When "God" is understood to mean the supreme personal Being, separated from the universe and creator of all things.

1. The atheist says, "I know that God does not exist."
2. The agnostic says, "Neither I nor anyone else can know whether God exists."
3. The Christian says, "I know that God exists."

Christians believe that there is sufficient evidence available for men to conclude that "God is" without doubt. We believe we are justified in reaching a certain conclusion when we have sufficient evidence. No one is able to demonstrate or observe that God Is or that God Is Not by any of the five senses or a laboratory test. However, we believe the evidence is such that we are justified in believing that God Is. To say that we believe in God does not mean that we completely understand God. If we could understand all about God, we would be deity ourselves. Yet this should not deter us from making the effort to fathom the greatness of God. I cannot believe that the smallest minnow ever complained about the vastness of the lake in which it lived.

God Is:

1. One God: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:" (Deut 6:4)
2. Unique: ". . . believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. (Isa 43:10-11)
3. Eternal: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Ps 90:2)
4. Unchangeable: "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Mal 3:6)
5. Creator: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen 1:1)
6. Self-existent: "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Ex 3:14)
7. Spirit: "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in

spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

8. Omnipotent: "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matt 19:26)

9. Omniscient: "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb 4:13)

10. Omnipresent: "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." (Ps 139:7-10)

11. Omnivisual: "Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord." (Jer 23:23-24)

12. Infinitely Just: "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face." (Ps 89:14)

13. Infinite in Holiness: "And the four beast had each of them six wings about him and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is and is to come." (Rev 4:8)

14. Infinite in Goodness: "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matt 19:17)

15. Merciful: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3:5)

16. Love: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

17. Life: "For they themselves show of what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." (1 Thess 1:9)

18. Infinity: "Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven, what canst thou do? Deeper

than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea." (Job 11:7-9)

We Understand that "God Is" by Faith

God Is. In these words we find a declaration of faith, assurance of hope, and an explanation for our existence. God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and a spirit does not have flesh and bone (Luke 24:30). Therefore, God's existence cannot be demonstrated by observation or by a laboratory experiment. Neither can His existence be observed by any of the five senses, that is, through seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, or smelling.

But this does not mean that God does not exist. He does not dwell in the physical realm. He dwells in heaven, a spiritual realm. The acceptance of the existence of God is a matter for faith – the belief of a truth based on evidence. In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to god must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Faith is based on evidence

We believe we are justified in reaching a certain conclusion when we have sufficient evidence. We say that no two fingerprints are alike. When we realize that men have never found two fingerprints alike, our faith is justified. Likewise, we believe that George Washington was the first president of the United States, not because we saw him inaugurated, but because of the historical evidence. We are not able to demonstrate or observe that God Is by any of the five senses or a laboratory test, but we believe the evidence is such that we are justified in believing that God Is.

Evidence that "God Is" – The Bible

The Bible does not present a list of arguments for the existence of God. His reality and eternity are accepted as facts. Evidences for the existence of God are found throughout the Bible. It begins with God creating all things (Gen 1:1). It tells us of His relationship with the Patriarchs, such as Adam, Enoch, Noah, Job and Abraham. It reveals His selecting out and dealings with the descendants of Abraham, the nation of Israel as the nation through whom He would bring the Messiah into the world. It tells us of the coming of the son of God, his life, death, resurrection, ascension and establishment of the church. It reveals to us that God will judge mankind at the end of the world's existence and ends with God and the righteous in heaven.

The idea of Scripture as revelation implies a God who gave the revelation. In order to deny the existence of God one must disprove the Bible. This has been tried by many but has never been successfully done. At whatever point the Bible has been attacked, it has always been proven to be true. It is like gold or brass, the more it is rubbed the more it shines or glows. The Bible is like the old Scotsman's fence. The

story is told of the Scotsman whose fence was continually being broken or torn down by some of the youths in town. He finally built a fence three feet high and four feet wide. So when the effort was made to destroy it, it ended up higher than it was before. The Bible has always ended up stronger after every effort to destroy it. Peter said, "But the word of the Lord endureth forever." (1 Pet 1:25) It shouts, "God Is."

Evidence for the Existence of God – The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Bible centers around Jesus. He prayed often to God. On one occasion he taught His disciples to pray. He began that prayer with, "Our Father, which art in heaven." His life on earth came to a close with His crucifixion. He overcame death, the grave, and the devil and was resurrected. All this is true even if the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were not inspired and were only the historical writings of men. His resurrection is a fact. There are three major witnesses: 1) the empty tomb, 2) eye witnesses, and 3) prophecy:

1. The Empty Tomb: When Peter and John went to the tomb on the first day of the week it was empty. (John 20:2-8) Even the enemies of Christ testified that the tomb was empty. (Matt 28:11-15) John, seeing that the tomb was empty, believed that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead. (John 20:8)

2. Eye Witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection: Mary Magdelene was among the first to see Jesus after his resurrection, (John 20:13-18) then Peter, (1 Cor 15:5) then two men on the way to Emaus, (Luke 24:31-34) then ten apostles (John 20:19) and a week later eleven apostles including Thomas, who at the first doubted. The fact that Thomas doubted helps us to believe. He was not going to be convinced unless there was some real evidence. When Jesus showed him his pierced hands, side and feet he no longer doubted. (John 20:24-29) Jesus appeared to above five hundred brethren at one time. (1 Cor 15:6) And last of all He was seen by Paul. (1 Cor 15:8)

3. Prophecy: Peter uses the prophecy of David which says, "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (hades DB), neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (Ps 16:10; Acts 2:27) to prove the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' body went to the grave, his spirit went to the hadean world but did not remain there long enough for the body to corrupt.

Paul said that by his resurrection Jesus was proven to be the Son of God with power. (Rom 2:4). If he was resurrected, and all these proofs say he was, He, then, was all he claimed to be. He came from Heaven (John 6:38), was sent (given) by God, (John 3:16) prayed to the Father, (John 14:16) returned to God, John 20:17) and glorified God. John said, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." (John 1:18) Jesus Christ himself testifies to the fact that "God Is."

The Reasonableness of Faith

Belief that "God Is" is based on the word of God. For "Faith cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom 10:17) There are a number of logical and rational arguments that reveal the reasonableness of believing that God exists.

Brother David M. Bonner tells this story. "You are on a camping trip in bear country and wake up to find bear tracks in your camp the next morning. Later you find claw marks of a bear where he tried to break into the food storage shed. Then four of your camping partners testify they saw the bear in the camp while you were sleeping." With this kind of evidence, is it reasonable to believe that a bear came through your camp? You did not see, smell, or hear the bear. Yet you believe the fact (a bear was in the camp) without doubt, based on that evidence. On the same kind of evidence we can believe, without doubt, that "God Is."

Cause and Effect

(Sometimes Referred to as the Cosmological Argument)

The argument stated: Every effect must have an adequate and sufficient cause. A watch necessitates a watchmaker and a house implies a builder. The watchmaker is the cause, the watch the effect, the builder of the house is the cause, the house he builds is the effect. Were we to say that the watchmaker is a monkey, reasonable men would reject our affirmation on the ground that a monkey is incapable of making a watch. Similarly, were it alleged that an infant can design and build a multi-storied building the claim would be denied on the ground that such is beyond the capability of an infant. Every effect must have an adequate and sufficient cause. This is self evident truth, recognized and admitted by all thoughtful and observing people.

Everything begun must have an adequate cause; the universe was begun; therefore the universe must have an adequate cause for its production. What caused it? We suggest that there are only three possible answerers, but only one is correct:

1. The universe is eternal. Wrong answer. The second law of thermodynamics tells us that the universe is expending its energies and is increasing in disorder and randomness. The universe tends to disorder not to order. Example: As we drive our cars down the highway, the car is using up gasoline so we stop to put gasoline in (energy in) and not to let gasoline out (energy out). The universe is using up its energy.

2. The universe is not eternal – it created itself. Again, wrong answer. Such a conclusion that the universe is its own creator is palpably false. It is scientifically true that something cannot come from nothing.

3. The universe is not eternal – it was created by some force outside itself, and superior to it. Right Answer. That uncaused first cause that is superior to the universe and created it is from an all-wise, all-powerful and

eternal being.

He who created the worlds, and all things therein, must be possessed of limitless and inexhaustible wisdom and knowledge. He must know all there is to know about everything. That the universe and all it contains were made by such a being is obvious seeing the rich beauty, the orderly operation and the perfection of creation..

The creator must have been all-powerful. How else could he have made the galaxies with all their stars and planets.

He who did all this must be eternal. He must have always existed. If there was ever a time that He did not exist, He could not exist now. For as we have seen, that which is without existence cannot make itself to exist; cannot begin by accident; and something cannot come from nothing. Hence, God must have always existed.

The story is told of Benjamin Franklin, the statesman. He was in France as a diplomat on behalf of the newly freed colonies. While there he designed and had built a model of our solar system. It was so constructed that when the crank was turned each planet would move around the sun in its orbit; the moon would revolve around the earth, etc. One day he was visited by an acquaintance who was an avowed atheist. Franklin's visitor saw the model on Franklin's desk. He began to turn the crank and admiringly watched the planets move in perfect harmony. He then asked, "Who made it?" "No one made it." Franklin answered, "It made itself, it just happened." "What," cried the atheist, "you're joking." "And so is the man who says the universe just happened," said Franklin.

The Bible recognizes this truth: "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God." (Heb 3:4)

Order and Design

The argument may be stated: Order and useful arrangement in a system imply intelligence and purpose. The universe around us is characterized by order and useful arrangement. Therefore the presence of intelligent order in the universe points to an intelligent being as the source of that order.

When we look at the universe we see order and useful arrangement. The planets all move upon their orbits in orderly fashion. The earth rotates upon its axis every twenty-four hours. At the same time it is moving around the sun at the amazing rate of 72,600 miles per hour. Everything in the universe stays on perfect time. Because of the exact precision of the working of the universe, scientists are able to tell exactly when we may expect an eclipse of the sun or

moon, when Haley's comet will appear and has made possible space exploration, etc.

There are evidences of purpose and design in every part of the human body. When we think of man's body, we say with the Psalmist, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Ps 139:14) The functioning of the two hundred bones, five hundred muscles, and two thousand ligaments binding them together, present a wonderful example of harmonious planning and design. The nervous system, the glandular system, the eyes, ears and the function of all the human organs for the good of the body present a picture of intelligent design.

An example of a watch is used by Paley in his Natural Theology. When one examines a watch, he knows that its 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 had an intelligent maker and designer. But this universe with all its solar systems and galaxies is regulated with order and precision more perfect than any watch. Since the universe exhibits great design, there must be a great designer. The Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handywork." (Ps 19:1)

The Universe is Running Down (The Second Law of Thermodynamics)

The first law of thermodynamics states: "Energy can be converted from one form to another but cannot be created or destroyed." Note in particular that energy cannot be created. The second law of thermodynamics states: "The total amount of entropy is always increasing." The word "entropy" used here means disorder, so the total amount of disorder is increasing. Or to put it another way, the universe or world is running down. One example is the sun. The sun does not have an inexhaustible supply of fuel. It is burning up its fuel. It obviously will last a long, long, long, long, time, but it cannot last eternally. It will, should the world last that long, use up all its fuel. We are observing a process that is running down. The Bible says, ". . . the earth waxes old like a garment . . ." (Isa 51:6)

Suppose you walked into a room in which stood a stately old grandfather clock showing the correct time with the pendulum swinging. Without doubt you would know at least two things. First, someone had been there before you and secondly, someone had wound up the clock. Since the universe is now, like the grandfather clock, running down, it is evident that it was wound up or begun. Who started it? Since the first law of thermodynamics tells us that energy cannot be created, the universe did not create itself. It had to be created (wound up) from without and He who started it all is God.

Some Things an Atheist Must Believe

1. He must believe that God does not exist, for he cannot prove it. To do so he would have to know everything and be in every place. For if there were one thing he did not know, the fact that God is could be that thing. In short he would have to be God himself.

2. He must believe that matter is eternal for out of nothing, comes nothing. Science tells us that you could create a vacuum in a jar and watch it for hundreds of thousands of years and you would still have nothing. Something must have always existed. The atheist must believe it is matter since he denies the existence of God.

4. He must believe that life comes from that which was non-living. Since he believes that matter has always existed and that life has not always existed, he is forced to the conclusion that all beings now living had their origin from that which had never lived at all. Louis Pasteur proved a long time ago that life comes only from life. The science of Biogenesis denies the spontaneous generation of life.

5. He must believe that beings which have consciousness originated from that which not only had no consciousness but also had no life.

6. He must believe that all order and design in the universe and in man came as a result of blind chance, it just happened. We are told that the whole universe existed in egg form x number of years ago. It exploded (thus the "big bang" theory). All that is in existence today is the result of that explosion. Whatever order or design we have in the universe just happened.

7. He must believe that man is just a body of atoms, just so much organized matter. On this basis there is no moral value, no inherit standard of right or wrong.

Conclusion

"There must be an incomprehensible power behind such an awesome expanding universe, an infinite intelligence to bring order and purpose to such endless variety. There must be a self-existence, eternal, infinite person to qualify as the uncaused First Cause. The evidence of intelligence and purpose shows this Cause to be a person, i.e. a Being possessing personality. The Bible refers to this person as God." – Author unknown

The belief in a self-existent personal God is in harmony with all the facts of man's mental and moral nature as well as all the phenomena of the material

world. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Ps 14:1)