



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

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Thursday, July 1, 2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:16-17 / Psalm 139:13

NC0191

TITLE: Does God Exist?: The Teleological Argument

Does God Exist? Some people say, “No way”. Other people say, "Yes, but He has walked away from the Universe." Others say, "You can never know if God exists." Many will say, "Yes, of course." But they don't know why they believe it. What about you? How would you answer this?

Well, this topic of God's existence is near and dear to my heart. As an apologist, I both desire to know and share the proof for our faith. So over the next three days, we are going to answer the question, "Does God exist? If so, how can we be sure?"

One of the strongest pieces of evidence for God's existence is what we call the teleological argument or the argument from design.

The teleological argument goes like this:

1. Every design has a designer.
2. The universe has a highly complex design.
3. Therefore, the universe has a Designer.

Premise 1 is every design has a designer. Whenever we see something with the appearance of design, we need to determine if the cause was natural, or intelligent and with purpose.

Let's look at a few examples:

Picture of random Scrabble letters - Intelligent or natural?

Picture of message in Scrabble letters - Intelligent or natural?

Picture of a rock formation - Intelligent or natural?

Picture of Mount Rushmore - Intelligent or natural?

It's obvious when things are designed by an intelligent designer. No one looks at an iPhone and goes, “It's amazing what time, plus matter, plus chance can do!” No. It's clearly intelligently designed with a purpose. So Premise 1 is self-evident.

What about Premise 2? **The universe has a highly complex design.**

Colossians 1:16-17 (NASB), "For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him, all

things hold together." God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He has put the laws of nature in place with purpose and design. They are for His enjoyment. It brings glory to Himself.

King David wrote about his very existence, "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13, NASB). You and I are designed with intelligence and purpose. Genesis tells us we are made in God's image. Now that's some design.

The anthropic principle recognizes the rich amount of evidence that the Universe was finely tuned for human life to exist. Baylor Professor Walter Bradley argued, "**Evidence for an intelligent designer becomes more compelling the more we understand about our carefully crafted habitat.**" (Bradley, William L. (1999) The Designed "Just So" Universe. <http://www.leaderu.com/offices/bradley/docs/universe.html>)

Complex life requires very specific conditions. There is no reason to think that a universe so intelligibly designed with purpose happened by chance. Therefore, the universe has a designer. The only option is a grand designer. This designer had a purpose for our universe and also displayed the highest level of intelligence. Who fits this description of such a designer? I believe the answer is God.

So here's my challenge for you today. Pause and look around you. Go look at the trees, the sky, or a baby. They are not there by chance. Go look in a mirror and say, "Wow!" Not "Ugh...wow." No, "Wow. I am designed on purpose and for a purpose."

Pause and develop awe and wonder of God's amazing design. It's everywhere. It's worth studying. And He is worth praising. So look around and tell God how much you enjoy it.

When we worship the Designer and not the design, we will win the day.