

**Yes, We Can Prove
God's Existence!**

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Should We Prove God's Existence?

Objections:

1. We shouldn't prove God's existence because that's putting "God in a box."
2. We shouldn't use natural revelation because sinners reject it anyway (Romans 1:18-20).
3. It is impossible for finite people to prove an infinite God.

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Our Calling

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a **defense** to everyone who asks you to give an **account** for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

Defense = "apologia" – rational defense in response to allegations or questions.
Account = "logos" – reason (logic)
The hope = "elpis" – certain hope based on God's character

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Where We Must Go

Atheist or Agnostic:

1. Supernatural causes are not possible
2. The resurrection is supernatural
- C. The resurrection is not possible
 - Valid but not true!
 - We must take issue with the 1st premise.

Circular Reasoning: "You must believe the Bible because the Bible says the Bible is true."

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Our Tactics

1. Cosmological argument (ontological) "a priori"
2. Teliological argument "a posteriori"

"a priori" = from cause to effect – necessary conclusions
 "a posteriori" = from effect to cause – probable conclusions

Example 1: Self creation can be ruled out "a priori"
 Example 2: An eternal universe is ruled out "a posteriori"

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Cosmological Argument

Only four possibilities for the beginning of the universe:

1. The universe is an illusion
2. The universe self created itself
3. The universe is eternal
4. There is an outside being who created the universe

Principle one: Out of nothing – nothing comes!
 "a priori"

Principle two: 2nd law of thermodynamics
 "a posteriori"

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The Universe Is Not Eternal

1. The 2nd law of thermodynamics
2. The motion of the galaxies
3. The radiation background in the universe
4. The cooling rate of radiation

2nd Law of Thermodynamics: According to this law, "The amount of usable energy in the universe is decreasing." Or, stated another way, "In a closed isolated system, the amount of usable energy is decreasing." Or, "Left to themselves, things tend to disorder." No matter which way it is stated, this law shows that an eternal universe would have run out of usable energy or reached a state of total disorder. Since it has not, it must have had a beginning" (Geisler).

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The Universe Is Not Eternal

Motion of the galaxies: Scientists argue that the universe is not simply in a holding pattern, maintaining its movement from everlasting to everlasting. It now appears that all of the galaxies are moving outward, as if from a central point of origin, and that all things were expanding faster in the past than they are now. Looking out into space, we are also looking back in time. We are seeing things as they were when the light was given off by those stars many years ago... Using a 200-inch telescope, Allan Sandage compiled information on forty-two galaxies, as far as 6 billion light years away. His measurements indicate that the universe was expanding more rapidly in the past than it is today. This result lends further support to the belief that the universe exploded into being (Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 95).

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The Universe Is Not Eternal

The radiation background in the universe:

No explanation other than the big bang has been found for the fireball radiation. The clincher, which has convinced almost the last doubting Thomas, is that the radiation discovered by Penzias and Wilson has exactly the pattern of wavelengths expected for the light and heat produced in a great explosion. Supporters of the Steady State theory have tried desperately to find an alternative explanation, but they have failed (Jastrow).

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The Universe Is Not Eternal

The cooling rate of the radiation background:

According to the big bang, the older and more expanded the universe becomes, the cooler its cosmic background radiation. Measurements of the cosmic background radiation at distances so great that we are looking back to when the universe was just a half, a quarter, or an eighth of its present age show temperature measures that are hotter than the present 2.726°K by exactly the amount that the big bang theory predicts. That is, astronomers actually witness the universe growing cooler and cooler through time (Hugh Ross).

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The Only Viable Option

Only four possibilities for the beginning of the universe:

1. ~~The universe is an illusion~~
2. ~~The universe self created itself~~
3. ~~The universe is eternal~~
4. There is an outside being who created the universe

For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries (Jastrow, 105-106).

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The Teleological Argument

1. All things designed must have a designer.
2. The universe is a thing that was designed.
- C. The universe must have a designer.

1. Astronomy
2. Physics/chemistry
3. Microbiology

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Our Planet Is A "Put Up Job"

Evidence for design from astronomy:

"Now, put all of this together – the inner region of the galaxy is much more dangerous from radiation and other threats; the outer part of the galaxy isn't going to be able to form Earth-like planets because the heavy elements are not abundant enough; and I haven't even mentioned how the thin disk of our galaxy helps our sun stay in its desirable circular orbit. A very eccentric orbit could cause it to cross spiral arms and visit dangerous inner regions of the galaxy, but being circular it remains in **the safe zone**" (Guillermo Gonzalez, Phd. astrophysics).

Our Planet Is a "Put Up Job"

- Earth's orbit is almost circular – needed for temperature control.
- Jupiter's orbit is very circular – if not, the earth would be "pulled" of trajectory and life would not be possible.
- Jupiter's huge mass (300 times that of earth) absorbs and deflects huge quantities of "life ending" comet impacts on earth.
- The sun's size and metal richness is both absolutely necessary for life and rare for this region of a galaxy!
- The moon's gravitational pull keep's earth's axis tilt of 23.5 degrees!

