

**WELCOME!**

## **Reasons That Point To Faith**

Hosted by Gregg Bennett and Jeff Burton

# Reasons That Point To Faith

## Agenda

- **Introduction**

- Bible and Faith
- Biblical Theology & Natural/Analytical Theology
  - Examples: Baptism, Salvation, Creation, Attributes of God
- Other Evidence and Logical Arguments outside of the Bible
  - Numerous Examples – HUGE topic!
  - Opportunity to fully engage our culture and world
- Today: First argue that it is logically possible that God exists. Then we will argue that God rose Jesus from the dead as the best explanation of historical facts.

- **Cosmological Argument for God - Video**

- Discussion

- **Moral Argument for God – Video**

- Discussion

- **Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? - 2 Videos**

- Discussion

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

# Cosmological Argument for God

- **A Fascinating History with Quite Recent Scientific Secular Advances**
  - **Pre-1915 Scientists Presumed the Universe was Eternal**
    - The Universe had always existed and would always exist
    - Eternal universe theory was a strong atheistic argument against God & the Bible at that time
    - Aristotle (c.350BC) and 'Kalam' (c.1075AD) were foundational to the 'cosmological argument'
  - **1915 Einstein's Theory of General Relativity Announced**
    - Einstein knew it predicted a beginning and therefore implied God
    - Einstein intentionally 'added a false constant' to continue to enable the eternal universe
    - Later scientists showed the constant was wrong and not needed
    - Einstein later called the 'false constant' the "biggest blunder of my life"!
  - **'Modern' atheistic scientists attempt cosmological explanations without a beginning**
    - 2003: Borde-Guth-Vilenkin mathematically prove our universe has a beginning
- **An Undefeated Logical Argument for the Universe having a Cause**
- **Three Logical Steps in the Argument (Syllogism = Facts from Deductive Reasoning)**
  - 1) Whatever Begins to Exist has a Cause
  - 2) The Universe Began to Exist
  - 3) Therefore, the Universe has a Cause

**THE CAUSE must be: Spaceless, Timeless, Immaterial, Uncaused, & Unimaginably Powerful  
(Attributes of God)**

# Cosmological Argument for God Discussion

- We are all scientists from everyday experience – No Magic Hat!
- As we engage the world one finds Materialists vs. Immaterialists
  - Immaterial Entities everywhere: God, Love, Truth, Mind, Time, Numbers...
- Empirical look at science strongly points toward God across its disciplines: Cosmology, Physics, Biology, Chemistry,....
  - Not a surprise because God is the Author of Truth and Man
- Discussion
  - Questions?
  - What do you find hard about making this argument?

## Cosmological Argument for God

- 1) Whatever Begins to Exist has a Cause
- 2) The Universe began to Exist
- 3) Therefore, the Universe has a Cause

**THE CAUSE must be: Spaceless, Timeless, Immaterial, Uncaused, & Unimaginably Powerful**

# Moral Argument for God

- **The Moral Argument For God** (undefeated if you believe in moral values and duties)
  - 1) If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
  - 2) Objective moral values and duties do exist.
  - 3) Therefore God exists.

**THE CAUSE must be: Spaceless, Timeless, Immaterial, Uncaused, Unimaginably Powerful and Good**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxiAikEk2vU&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX&index=5>

# Moral Argument for God Discussion

- What we are *NOT* saying
- The Moral Argument For God (undefeated if you believe in moral values and duties)
  - 1) If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
  - 2) Objective moral values and duties do exist.
  - 3) Therefore God exists.
- Moral values in the absence of God (Premise 1)
  - Biological Origin
  - Social Origin
  - Personal Origin
- Why do we believe in Moral Values? (Premise 2)
  - Moral Experience
  - Obligations and Duties are “other” oriented
- Consequences of rejection of objectivity in morality

THE CAUSE must be: Spaceless, Timeless, Immaterial, Uncaused, Unimaginably Powerful and Good

# Jesus of Nazareth

# Jesus

Jesus is not one of the group of world's great. Talk about Alexander the Great and Charles the Great and Napoleon the Great if you will...Jesus is apart. He is not the Great – He is the only.

- **Carnegie Simpson, historian**

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him. - **Napoleon, military and political leader**

I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history. - **H.G. Wells, author**

As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene....No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life. - **Albert Einstein, scientist**

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

- **C.S. Lewis, author**



# Did God Raise Jesus from the Dead?

- **The Historical Facts**

- Jesus was a Real Person
- Jesus was Crucified
- Discovery of an Empty Tomb
- Appearances of Jesus Alive After His Death
- The Disciples Belief in His Resurrection

- **Possible Explanations of Jesus being raised from the dead**

- Conspiracy Theory
- Apparent Death Theory
- Displaced Body Theory
- Hallucination Theory
- God Raised Jesus From the Dead
- (Materialists vs. Immaterialists)

- **Two Videos (15 minutes)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qhQRMhUK1o&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX&index=10>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SbJ4p6WiZE&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX&index=11>

# Did God Raise Jesus from the Dead - Discussion

- **The Historical Facts**

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- **Possible Explanations of Jesus being raised from the dead**

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# Additional Resources

## Apologetics Resources

### Books

*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*  
Gary Haberman & Mike Licona

Comprehensive argument for the truth of the resurrection. "Minimal Facts" approach.

*Cold-case Christianity*  
J. Warner Wallace

Focus on reliability of the New Testament and truth of the resurrection by a former homicide detective.

*The Creator and the Cosmos*  
Hugh Ross

Good overview of science/Christianity controversy, with emphasis on cosmology as evidence for God

*Darwin's Doubt*  
Stephen C. Meyer

The case for intelligent design in biology, fairly technical in spots.

*The New Testament Documents*  
F.F. Bruce

Covers the origin and history of the New Testament.

*On Guard*  
William Lane Craig

Excellent summary of existence of God arguments. Also treats the resurrection and some objections to Christianity.

*Reasonable Faith*  
William Lane Craig

Covers same ground as On Guard, more comprehensively.

*Scaling the Secular City*  
J.P. Moreland

Broad overview of apologetic arguments (similar to *Reasonable Faith* above).

## Websites

**Reasonable Faith ([www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org))**

*William Lane Craig's website.*

A summary of arguments for God's existence: <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/popular-articles-does-god-exist>

**Be Thinking ([www.bethinking.org](http://www.bethinking.org))**

*Lots of apologetic material from various authors, some written, some audio.*

**Apologetics 315 ([www.apologetics315.com](http://www.apologetics315.com))**

*Lots of resources and links to other sites.*

**Tekton ([www.tektonics.org](http://www.tektonics.org))**

*A very comprehensive database of responses to just about every conceivable objection, criticism, and proposed contradiction in the Bible.*

## Podcasts

**Unbelievable**

([www.premier.org.uk/unbelievable](http://www.premier.org.uk/unbelievable))

A radio program out of Great Britain - mostly atheists

and Christians debating.

**Reasonable Faith ([www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org))**

William Lane Craig has a weekly podcast. There are also archives of his teaching class at his church - many, many hours of apologetics and systematic theology.

**Cross Examined ([www.crossexamined.org](http://www.crossexamined.org))**

Frank Turek's podcast.