

Does The Bible PROVE That God Exists?



Even before the rash of very articulate and passionate “new atheists” appeared (Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens [d], Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett) to attack “Christian Theism” (usually a caricature of it), There was a British Professor and Philosopher regarded by many as the world’s most acclaimed atheist by the name of Anthony Flew. In 2004, it was announced that Dr. Flew had renounced his atheism in favor of theism. That

renouncement may or may not stick (only God can determine that), but one thing’s for sure: Intellectually honest atheists / agnostics need to write their assertions with a pencil and a big eraser. Perhaps “Does God exist?” is THE question!

First, some terminology:

- **Atheist** – Someone who DENIES or DISBELIEVES in the existence of a god or gods. From atheos, “w/o gods” used in the ancient world to describe someone who rejected the gods of a given society [Xns were considered atheos by the Romans who worshipped Roman gods!]
- **Agnostic (2 kinds)** -- 1st kind: “I do not know IF there’s a god.” He/she neither believes nor disbelieves. They simply do not know if anyone can know for sure. 2nd kind, “You CANNOT know if there’s a god.” This goes beyond the idea of speaking for oneself and seeking to speak for others, also. It simply means w/o knowledge, but the 2nd goes beyond “I do not know” to “NOBODY can know”.
- **Theist (2 kinds)** -- 1st kind, those who believe in a supreme being of some kind, usually called god, exists. Or it may be “gods”. Who knows? 2nd kind, those who believe that God as revealed in the Bible, exclusively, exists. It’s NOT just a general belief in God, but a specific belief in a specific GOD.

Can we KNOW God exists? Yes! The Bible gives us at least four clues to God’s existence. (*cf Romans 1:20*) The Bible supplies 4 clues that lead us to God. These 4 clues will not convince a hardened atheist (only the Holy Spirit working in his/her heart can do that), but together they give us ample reasons to believe that God as revealed in His Word exists.

1. The CLUE of CAUSALITY.

Cf Hebrews 3:4 **Basically, this clue states that everything we see around us has a CAUSE, and that when we keep following every EFFECT back to its CAUSE, we see the Truth of GENESIS 1:1.** Look around, and there’s no denying that in our experience, EVERYTHING has an origin, EVERYTHING comes from something else. [Communion Table came from lumber which came from a tree(s) which came from a seed that came from another seed . . . or me to Edd & Winnie to their parents to their parents, back to Adam & Eve, who were created by God;] and keep going back and eventually you get to SOMETHING uncreated. Experience tells you that every EFFECT has a CAUSE, and the ultimate CAUSE for all the EFFECTS we see around us is GOD. SOMEONE caused the universe to exist, and that Someone is GOD. Or as **Hebrews 3:4** says, ***For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.***

2. The CLUE of DESIGN.

Cf Psalm 19:1-6; 139:13-18 **Basically, this clue states that the universe displays an amazingly complex level of INTERDEPENDENCY and “JUST RIGHTNESS” leading to the conclusion that it was DESIGNED to be the way it is.** The universe displays an amazingly complex level of interdependency which logically leads to the conclusion that it was designed that way. There are just too many coincidences of such "just rightness" for this world to be a random haphazard coincidence. The earth is "just the right" distance from the Sun; it contains "just the right" mixture of chemicals and gases to sustain life; humans have "just the right" ability to breath these gases; the human body has "just the right" synergy of internal organs in order to function, and so on. Where there's design, there's a DESIGNER.

3. The CLUE of MORALITY.

Cf Isaiah 45:19; Genesis 1:27 Genesis 3:5; Romans 1:18ff **Basically, this clue states that because people are the IMAGE of GOD, a sense of MORALITY is built into all people by GOD, Who ultimately declares what is RIGHT.** How do we know what "evil" is? How do we know what "good" is? These concepts demand either the existence of a standard to make such evaluations, or an understanding what these concepts mean. Each of us are born with an innate sense of morality. We each fundamentally know what is right and wrong. It is incredible to consider that no matter time, culture, geographic location, or people, the Moral Law has been universally acknowledged.

This tends to confirm that all of creation bears the finger-prints of a Creator who is fundamentally good and right. That is, we each share a knowledge of what is right and wrong not just because we are taught or conditioned to accept these values, but because we are born with them engrained in our DNA. We CANNOT get away from the categories of moral imperatives!

But, IF there's no God, WHOSE to say what's right or wrong? Or how did we even get to those categories at all? It's b/c the WORK of the Law – declaring actions to be either right or wrong – is something GOD-given to everybody. Otherwise, it's all about how we “feel” that something is wrong, or right. But WHO has the right to impose their FEELINGS upon somebody else? WHO are WE to say something is right or wrong? We may FEEL it's wrong to be stolen from, but what if the person who stole from you FEELS it was the RIGHT thing to do? Moral obligation becomes relative to what someone FEELS morally obligated to do.

[Bahnsen to atheist professor Gordon Stein, “If God doesn't exist, who are YOU to say that what happened to your Great-Grandfather was a BAD thing? Who are you to say what the Germans did to the Jews was WRONG? It's just your opinion! It's just your preference.”]. In other words, the answer to the grand “WHO SEZ?” is that either NOBODY can ultimately say, or there is an OBJECTIVE TRANSCENDENT STANDARD from an OBJECTIVE God.

4. The CLUE of LONGING.

Cf Ecclesiastes 3:11; Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-2; John 7:37-3 **Basically, this clue states that if a LONGING exists, then that LONGING points toward something/one Who ultimately SATISFIES that LONGING.** There IS something known as a “blessed longing”. We not only feel the ABSENCE of what we LONG for. DESIRES correspond to OBJECTS we desire.

Our THIRST leads us to WATER. Our HUNGER leads us to FOOD. Our LONELINESS leads us to PEOPLE. Our TIREDNESS leads us to REST. Isn't it interesting that in the Bible, the Lord compares himself to FOOD, WATER, REST, and RELATIONSHIP for our SOULS? When you're physically tired, the desire to REST means that REST is a reality. The desire for RELATIONSHIPS indicates that there are people who can meet this desire. Ultimately, our longing for beauty & peace & joy & love & identity & security & significance & community & hope indicates the existence of someone who can GIVE us what we LONG for. That someone is GOD, who gives us HIMSELF, and in giving us HIMSELF, we get everything we deeply desire. ***This is the famous passage from St. Augustine's Confessions (Lib 1,1-2,2.5,5: CSEL 33, 1-5) in which Saint Augustine states "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."***

****Ultimately, Christians believe in God because JESUS did; and our hope lies in JESUS being PERFECT, which includes SPEAKING only what is TRUE.****

If GOD doesn't exist, and Jesus clearly spoke of God existing, the Jesus was either DELUSIONAL or MISLEADING others to believe in God. Either way, you have someone who has moral flaws (lies) and therefore cannot provide the perfect life, the righteousness we need credited to our account to be acceptable to God. If we believe Jesus is who He said His, we believe in God!

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES: Tim Keller, The Reason For God, chapters 8, 9; This PDF is worth downloading and reading carefully:http://www.calvin.edu/academic/philosophy/virtual_library/articles/plantinga_alvin/two_dozen_or_so_theistic_arguments.pdf